

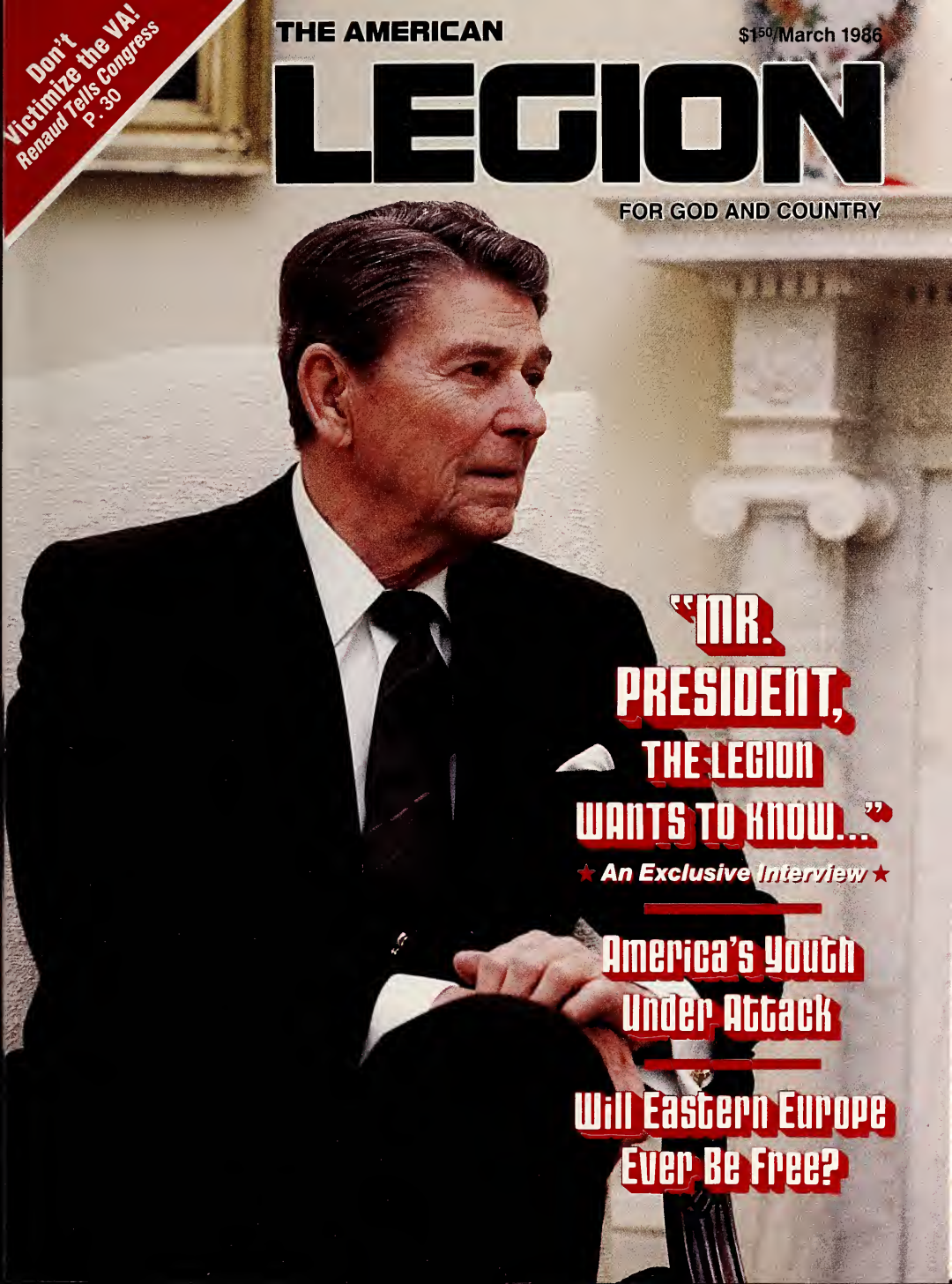
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THE AMERICAN

\$150/March 1986

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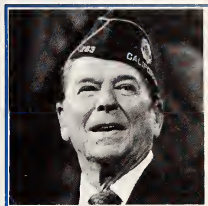
The Magazine for a Strong America

Vol. 120, No. 3

March 1986

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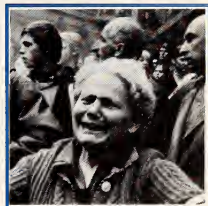
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THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.6 million members. These military-service veterans, working through 16,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and country and traditional American values; a strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.



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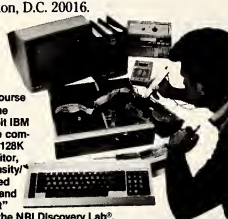
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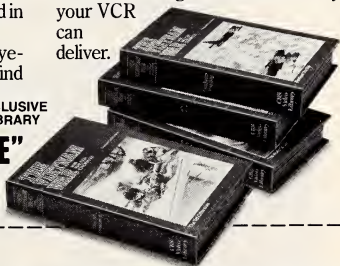
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## VA Budget

I would like to see a balanced budget, but not at the expense of our veterans who earned their rights and benefits through blood, sweat and tears.

*Lawrence Pellegrino  
Hamilton Square, N.J.*

In 1982, Congress removed the COLA from Social Security, cut Medicare drastically, increased insurance premiums and imposed a Social Security tax. At the same time, Congress raised its pay \$9,500 and gave itself a 14 percent increase in allowable expenses.

*Clarence Stodola  
Elk River, Minn.*

You speak of potential denial of health care benefits to low-income veterans. There is an unspoken presumption that the VA is doing a great job now. Like hell!

*John J. Wren  
Monterey, Calif.*

While I was denied a \$37-a-month retiree COLA, Congress authorized its members to earn an additional \$626 a month each by moonlighting. Sen. Proxmire yelled "Outrageous!" How-

ever, Congress said it costs more to live these days, so it allowed its members to earn more without suffering dual compensation deductions.

*T. P. Strider  
APO Miami*

I've written the President and my congressmen and senators about not cutting the VA budget. It should be increased. I cannot say enough good things about the treatment I've received at the VA hospitals I've been in and out of in the past two years.

*John H. Poole  
St. Johnsbury, Vt.*

## Special Status

Your "Special Status of Veterans" (January) said the history of America's veterans' benefits began in Massachusetts in 1636. Actually, the colony of Virginia established veterans benefits in 1624.

The laws in both colonies were based on the 1593 English "Acte for Relieffes of Souldiours" and, by 1777, all but Connecticut had made special provisions for veterans. The Continental Congress in 1776 recommended that the states

establish pensions for disabled and invalid veterans.

*Joseph Reeves  
Portsmouth, Va.*

## Gramm-Rudman

Being honorably discharged WWII veterans, and longtime members of the Legion, we became angered and concerned when we learned the purpose of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings amendment proposing cuts in veterans benefits.

As veterans, our position toward those who propose such cuts is: "If you're not with us, you're against us." Veterans have families and families have votes. Our message is emphatically clear in terms of upcoming elections. Also, we advocate the emergence of a truly united and supportive third party, The American Veterans Party, since currently serving congressmen of various wars are now adamantly blinded to the needs of numerous veterans throughout this great nation. We don't propose to be conned or exploited. We are human beings with needs that were well earned.

*Michael & Steven Bartko  
Hopelawn, N.J.*

## We Won the War

In "No Victory" (January), Roland Nelson wouldn't dare tell survivors of the thousands slaughtered in Vietnam since 1975 that they are "better off under communism than the freedom we tried to give." Americans fought and won every battle and the war. Unfortunately, we lost the peace.

*Richard C. Strub  
Memphis, Tenn.*

## USS Enterprise

In the article "Are Aircraft Carriers Obsolete?" (December) the author skipped his homework. He said the USS Enterprise was the only carrier to survive WWII from beginning to end.

You may hear from former crewmen of the USS Saratoga, which was commissioned in 1927 and also survived World War II only to be sunk at Bikini Atoll as part of "Operation Crossroads," shortly after the war.

*Clarence N. Schreck  
Lakewood, N.Y.*

## IN MEMORIAM



"On behalf of the nearly 3 million members of The American Legion, I want to express my sincerest condolences to the family and friends of the crew of the space shuttle Challenger. Their attempt at another heroic mission typifies the American spirit; their tragic end, a consequence of the pursuit of the peaceful use of space. Their courage and dedication to these causes will live forever in America's heritage. Please convey my deepest sympathy in this time of national sorrow."

*Nat'l Cmdr. Dale L. Renaud  
to NASA Administrator  
William R. Graham*

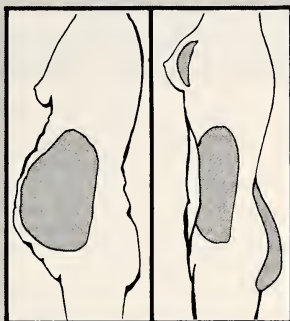


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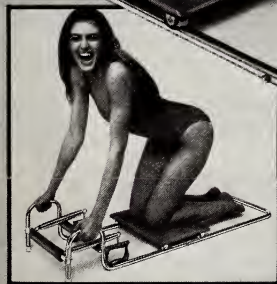
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## Shorter Week, More Jobs?

At least 7 million additional jobs would be created if Americans worked four days instead of the traditional five, said Rep. John Conyers Jr. of Michigan. Conyers has introduced the Shorter Work Week Act as a means to provide more jobs and leisure time for the nation's workforce.

Conyers said the shorter work week has become widespread in Europe. The congressman said if the legislation is enacted, industrial productivity will increase and help lower the nation's \$2 trillion deficit.

Conyers said although the Labor Department reports the national unemployment rate is 7.3 percent of the workforce, the real figure is closer to 13 percent. He said for every one percentage point of unemployment, it costs the federal government about \$24 billion in increased domestic spending programs and revenue loss.

The bill would shorten the standard statutory work week to four days, eight hours each, with double-time for overtime.

## Spies Left Out in the Cold

Federal agencies are scrambling for new ideas to deter and detect spies—especially Americans willing to shell out security secrets for cash.

One approach, a measure introduced in the Senate by Sen. Ted Stevens of Alaska, would force spies to forfeit proceeds earned from espionage activities. The bill has been dubbed the "Take the Fun Out of Spying Act."

"We are faced with a new breed of spies, ones who will sell their country down the river for money and kicks," said Sen. Dave Durenberger of Minnesota. "They have no ideology, no beliefs, no goals beyond life in the fast lane. Spying now attracts the same people as drug smuggling."

Among other things, the legislation would force a convicted spy to give up all ill-gotten payoffs and any proceeds from the media seeking to exploit the case. While taking away one potential pot-of-gold, the bill offers another: a \$500,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of spies.

Some members of Congress said they believe it will take more than cash rewards to deter spying, so they want the death penalty for any person convicted of espionage or treason. Rep. Eldon Rudd of Arizona introduced such a bill last year. "The overwhelming majority of American people believe these crimes are despicable enough to warrant the death penalty," Rudd said, adding that such a penalty is a proven deterrent to spying.

## Marijuana Farms Increase

While the U.S., Mexican and Colombian governments are working together to help curb international drug trafficking, authorities say marijuana crops are flourishing across the United States.

In 1984, marijuana farmers were arrested in every state

except Rhode Island, said Sen. Paula Hawkins of Florida, chairman of the Senate Drug Enforcement Caucus. In fact, there is a national industry journal to keep pot growers updated on the latest high-tech methods of growing the illegal plants.

Hawkins said there are about 200,000 marijuana farmers in the United States, and that more than half of the drug sold on the streets throughout the nation is grown on home soil.

Many states have adopted major eradication programs to deal with the "growing" problem of marijuana farms. Combined efforts of law enforcement agencies have led to early harvest of the plants in Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky. Law enforcement officials said profits from the illegal trade have escalated from \$1 billion in 1978 to \$16.6 billion in 1984.

## More One-Parent Families

One out of every four American families is headed by a single parent—twice that of a generation ago.

Such were the findings of the Bureau of Census, based on a 1984 study, which said that 26 percent of all family groups with children under 18 were one-parent. Twenty-nine percent of similar families had two parents. According to the report, the father is the lone partner in 3 percent of the family groups with young children.

Census officials classified one-parent situations as being created through premarital birth, divorce, separation and death of a spouse.

Of 85.4 million households in the country, more than 23 million were maintained for the most part by single persons, officials said.

## Once Is Not Enough

While many people have difficulty paying bills at all, Uncle Sam is experiencing the opposite situation. Several government agencies pay their bills not once, but twice.

The General Accounting Office, after examining the payment systems of three agencies, discovered more than \$11 million worth of duplicate payments. The largest error involved \$6.8 million. According to the GAO, the contractor discovered the duplicate payment and refunded the money.

The three agencies examined included the Defense Logistics Agency, which in 1984 made 26 duplicate payments totaling \$8.6 million; General Services Administration, 32 duplications worth \$1.3 million; and Justice Management Division, \$1.7 million in double payments.

In most instances, the GAO said duplicate payments are later discovered by the agency or vendor and the money is refunded.

## Quote of the Month

*"Society has a right to protect its moral fabric from the stains and rot of pornography."*

James J. Kilpatrick  
Syndicated Columnist



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# Should We Impose Economic Sanctions On South Africa?

Rep. Norman D. Shumway, R-Calif.

The Republican leadership in the Senate did a somersault in September 1985. Unfortunately, it landed on its head. Influenced by the administration's Sept. 9 Executive Order of limited economic sanctions against South Africa, the Senate failed to pass the conference report on the Anti-Apartheid Act. The bill contains legislation designed to impose tough economic sanctions against South Africa. Insensitive as it may seem, this political ploy was organized as an attempt to avert a confrontation between Republicans in Congress and the White House.

Facing collapse of the desolate policy of "constructive engagement," the administration has embarked upon a plan for limited economic sanctions that can never succeed. Contrived from the ruins of thought, the idea of "active constructive engagement" favors political cosmetics over serious measures. What the GOP Senate has agreed to is a weak proposal full of loopholes easily lifted by a stroke of a pen.

Rejecting the presidential doubletalk, we must insist upon nothing less than tougher, harder sanctions if our nation wants immediate steps taken to dismantle the hated apartheid system. We, in Congress, had an obligation to stand by our original bipartisan plans and resuscitate the Anti-Apartheid Act. To preserve the integrity of our constitutional responsibilities, I cannot stress enough how important it is to replace the administration's feeble gesture with genuinely meaningful sanctions.

Fortunately, there is hope. Twelve Republican senators led by Sen. Lowell Weicker (Conn.) will not let South Africa become a partisan issue. I am impressed by their integrity.

Those Republican leaders in the Senate and the administration who argue against application of tough, hard sanctions against South Africa need to consider the reality of apartheid. There is more involved than jobs or strategic interest. This is a cruel system of life enforced by whips, police dogs, detentions, arson, torture, disappearances and death. It is a system of life that distorts human nature, as did American slavery. The clock is running, and I hope the Senate acts before time runs out. □

## YES



Rep. Parren J. Mitchell, D-Md.



## NO

My experience and conversations in South Africa repeatedly confirm that U.S.-imposed economic sanctions would be negative and destructive.

Undeniably, apartheid is to be condemned; it must be dismantled and replaced by a free and equal system of government in South Africa. However, the overwhelming majority of those with whom I met, black and white, believe that economic sanctions would be a serious mistake, harming most the very people we aim to help. Instead of inspiring reform, economic sanctions seek to indiscriminately tear down what exists, both good and bad. Even limited sanctions set a precedent for far-reaching steps or total disinvestment.

The positive progress that has occurred, although limited, should not be sacrificed. An example of such progress is a publicly owned gold mine in the Orange Free State, which employs 30,000 people, 29,000 of whom are black. The miners there now receive a wide array of benefits from the company, including significant education and training programs. Contraction in the mining industry, the certain result of sanctions, would cost South African blacks not only their jobs, but also opportunities to advance economically.

A spokeswoman for the National Union of Clothing Workers in South Africa confirmed the positive role played by U.S. companies. Pioneers in hiring and training blacks, they have set an example for reform and economic improvement.

The question, I believe, is no longer one of whether the system of apartheid will be dismantled, but rather when and how. Those with whom I spoke were in agreement that a positive answer to these questions will be provided by economic stability and the progressive influence of foreign business, not by disinvestment and desertion.

The transformation required in South Africa cannot be imposed from outside. It must evolve from within. In my view, an indefensible policy in South Africa should not be answered by an indefensible policy by the United States. Our contribution should be to encourage the steps necessary to end the injustices of apartheid—a contribution to constructive change, not to destructive deterioration. □

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# 'MR. PRESIDENT, THE LEGION WANTS TO KNOW...'



*Why do we continue to negotiate with the Soviets, when they repeatedly violate treaties and agreements at will? President Reagan answers this and other questions of importance to Legionnaires in this exclusive interview.*

**American Legion Magazine:** Mr. President, the Legion wants to know how you have fulfilled your 1980 campaign promise to rebuild America's defenses?

**President Reagan:** Five years ago, the conventional wisdom seemed to be that the all-volunteer military wasn't working. Troop morale was low and military families overseas were having trouble making ends meet. I am proud we turned this around. The men and women in uniform once again have reasons to join, to train, to stay in, and to prepare for any emergency. They are really the muscle, heart and mind of America's defenses.

Military pay levels are now about one-third higher than they were in 1980, and military personnel overseas have more buying power due to the stronger dollar. As a result of these reforms, as well as in part a renewed sense of patriotism we're seeing throughout the country, we are attracting substantially more recruits than in 1980, and the percentage of new recruits with a high school degree is the highest ever. Re-enlistment is up as well. And this is happening in the context of a growing economy that is producing a record number of jobs in the private sector.

And, through our procurement program, we're working to give these men and women the tools they need to get the job done and establish a strong foundation for the future. Thanks to our program to restore our defenses, we now have planes that can fly and ships that can sail. We are proceeding with the MX and the B-1 bomber, and we are approaching our goal of a 600-ship Navy.

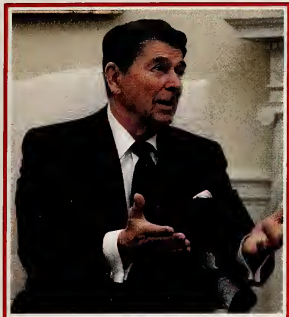
**Q.** You met last November with General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, leader of the Soviet Union. What did your discussion accomplish?

**A.** More than anything else, my goal was to meet my Soviet counterpart and to have a frank discussion with him one-on-one, without distraction or media filters. He found out

**BLUE CAPPER**—"Our country will sign no agreement that is not effectively verifiable or is not in our national interest," says Reagan, a lifetime member of Pacific Palisades Post 283, Calif.







PHOTOGRAPHS BY SUE KENNEDY

**ON NATIONAL DEFENSE**—"The choice is clear: preserving defense, or turning back the clocks to the 1970s, when our planes couldn't fly and our ships couldn't sail for lack of parts and trained support."

**ON NEGOTIATIONS**—"Our negotiating with the Soviets does not imply in any way that we condone past Soviet behavior, and we are vigorously pressing the Soviet Union to take corrective action."

**ON AFGHANISTAN**—"More assistance is exactly what we plan to give the freedom fighters in Afghanistan. Their bravery stands as a continuing reminder of what some endure for freedom's sake."

that I'm not the caricature they portray in PRAVDA. And I found out that, though he is not going to budge from his Marxist-Leninist worldview, he may have an interest in give-and-take on certain issues.

The meetings produced a fresh start. That phrase contains no illusions: It simply means that we aired our differences, searched for common ground, and planted some seeds that might sprout into tangible agreements.

**Q.** Why do we continue to negotiate with the Soviet Union, when it repeatedly violates treaties and agreements at will?

**A.** As I have said before, the pattern of Soviet non-compliance with arms control agreements, which I have documented in three reports to the Congress, including one in December 1985, is a deadly serious matter. It calls into question the security benefits of arms control; it creates new security risks; and it undermines the confidence essential to the arms control process.

Why then continue to negotiate? We do so for several reasons. First, new arms control agreements, if soundly formulated and fully adhered to, can serve U.S. interests. We should not abandon efforts to achieve agreements that can increase U.S. and Allied security and reduce the risk of war, provided that such agreements are equitable and verifiable.

Second, our negotiating with the Soviets does not imply in any way that we condone past Soviet behavior, and we are vigorously pressing the Soviet Union to take corrective action.

Third, we are taking account of the security implications of Soviet violations in our defense modernization plans, and we have made it quite clear that we will take appropriate and proportionate responses to Soviet non-compliance, even as we seek to ensure that future arms control agreements are both equitable and effectively verifiable.

Your readers should rest assured our country will sign no agreement that is not effectively verifiable or is not in our national interest.

**Q.** The Soviet Union has sharply upgraded its chemical warfare capability. What is the U.S. response?

**A.** The United States signaled its abhorrence for chemical weapons by unilaterally halting all research and development on chemical weapons in 1969, and has been gradually destroying obsolete stockpiles since that time.

American restraint in this area, however, was not met with commensurate restraint by the Soviets. On the contrary—the evidence shows that their chemical weapons have been unleashed on the Afghans and on the people of Indochina.

In the face of Soviet expansion of its chemical arsenal and Soviet use of chemical weapons, we have reluctantly sought a limited production capability to assure deterrence, and to encourage serious Soviet negotiations on the comprehensive ban on production, use, and transfer of chemical weapons, that we proposed in 1984 at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament.

**Q.** Afghan Freedom Fighters have held out against Soviet armed forces for six years with inadequate support from the West. Why is the United States not offering more support, when the mujahadeen is in such desperate need of materiel and other forms of assistance?

**A.** More assistance is exactly what we do plan to give the freedom fighters in Afghanistan. Their bravery stands as a continuing reminder of what some endure for freedom's sake.

In the case of the Afghans, it's more than abstract freedom they're fighting so valiantly for. As a recent *Washington Post* editorial put it, their struggle is against a monstrous machine of genocide. Much of the population has fled. The remainder endures the torments of a ceaseless air war against civilians, chronic shortages of food and the rudiments of medical care, and the relentless propaganda of the so-called "liberators"—who claim that all these troubles are the result of Western "imperialism."

The real source of the problem, of course, lies in Moscow. That's why last November, by the most lopsided vote ever,





**STATUS REPORT**—Reagan delivers his State of the Union address to Congress. Seated in the background are Vice President Bush and Speaker of the House "Tip" O'Neill.

the United Nations called again for Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan.

**Q.** What is our government doing to protect American citizens, both at home and abroad, from terrorist attacks? What is the policy of your administration when such attacks occur?

**A.** This gets into an area where I cannot answer direct questions for fear of compromising security efforts we have under way. Some time ago, I noted that we have, over the course of the past 12 months, taken action to pre-empt and prevent some 126 terrorist attacks. I think that this and the other things we are doing demonstrate that protecting the lives of Americans is the highest duty of government. As for what can be done when these criminals carry out terrorist attacks, the United States will undertake appropriate action in each circumstance.

**Q.** You have stated that the resolution of the POW/MIA issue is of the "highest national priority." What is our government currently doing to account for our missing servicemen?

**A.** We inherited this problem in 1981, almost eight years after the withdrawal of our combat forces. For over two years prior to that, there was a complete stalemate. We developed a strategy to overcome this inertia. We opened direct negotiations with the governments of Vietnam and Laos, raised intelligence priorities, adopted a public awareness program and re-established close contact with the National League of Families and family members of the missing.

Last year, the remains of over 50 of our men were returned to the United States. We now have joint crash site excavations and Hanoi recently agreed to try to resolve the issue in two years.

Our highest priority is resolution of the question of American servicemen still held in captivity. Although we cannot yet prove it is true that U.S. servicemen are still imprisoned there, we cannot rule out the possibility. We will continue to pursue this with our utmost efforts.

**Q.** The Congress recently passed the Balanced Budget and Deficit Reduction Act of 1985, mandating a balanced budget by 1991. One provision of the law would require across-the-board spending cuts if Congress fails to meet the specified budget targets. What effect will this legislation have on your program to rebuild the nation's defenses?

**A.** My agreement with the Congress called for a one-year pause in our defense buildup, in conjunction with our efforts to tighten up certain domestic items and abolish some dozen non-essential programs. That was to be followed by two more years of 3 percent growth in military spending after inflation.

We froze defense spending, but we never got the kind of non-defense spending cuts and program terminations we wanted.

Providing for America's security is the unique obligation of the federal government. No other level of government or private institution can fund national defense. In contrast, many domestic programs can be effectively performed by state or local governments—which are better able to afford them, having run a multibillion dollar budget *surplus* in 1985.

The choice is clear: preserving defense, or turning back the clock to the 1970s, when our planes couldn't fly and our ships couldn't sail for lack of parts and trained support.

**Q.** Should veterans' benefits be exempt from these automatic across-the-board cuts?

**A.** The legislation I signed into law on Dec. 12, 1985, stipulates that there can be no automatic cuts in Veterans Compensation and Veterans Pension.

**Q.** When you leave office in January 1989, what legacy do you hope to leave your country?

**A.** There are several accomplishments, or ideas, that I hope for in my second term.

Domestically, I hope to see the federal government's fiscal house put in order, with continued economic prosperity. This will require the discipline of spending reductions, the passage of tax reform, and other proposals that will allow individuals and businesses to boost productivity and keep the American economic engine running at full speed.

The other legacy I want to see endure is that of a secure America, protected by traditional military readiness and prepared for the new opportunities such as the Strategic Defense Initiative. As we get to the point where that may be possible, we will, by applying good old American ingenuity, be making the world's nuclear arsenals less and less useful.

This can't happen overnight, but we are moving slowly but surely away from the balance-of-terror, and toward the balance-of-safety. In that direction lies a safer world, for ourselves and our children. □



# ASSAULT ON YOUTH



**MORE** than ever, our youths are under attack and suffering from the onslaught of porno books and movies, questionable role models, perverted adults, early use of alcohol and drugs—all combining forces to confuse and wreck their young lives. We must fight back!





# THE UNDECLARED WAR ON CHILDREN

*Sex deviates and pornography peddlers  
have joined forces to wage a well-  
organized, vicious attack on our children.  
How can we fight back?*

By Dr. Kenneth Wooden

**A**LL across the United States, there has been a silent, but brutal undeclared war on children. Concerned with adult issues and problems, many of us have failed to realize that 63 million Americans—our children—are not as safe as we would like to believe. Thousands of parents daily throughout the nation are becoming victims of society's false sense of security and its tragic results.

• In the late 1970s, a construction worker moved his young family to the Midwest, to a "safe" community surrounded by gates with security guards.

• During the mid-1970s a couple in the West related how their little girl would often pass a nursery school on her way to play by the ocean and dream that some day she'd marry and send her own children to the nursery.

• In the early 1980s, in the heartland of America—a successful salesman, his

wife and family enjoyed the material blessings of this great land. They watched with pride as their 12-year-old son began to deliver newspapers.

• And in 1984, in the East, a police officer spent his free time involved in community activities of The American Legion. His family, including their youngest daughter, also became active in The American Legion.

While these four couples worked and dreamed, their children were conceived, born and entered childhood. Busy with the task of providing food, clothing and opportunity, these hard-working parents, like millions of other Americans, took little note of the early skirmishes of a protracted war on children.

But by 1986, the American Dream had become a nightmare for these four families and hundreds of thousands of others across the United States. The insulated world of a small Midwest town was shattered when the construction worker's 11-year-old daughter joined the growing ranks of CMIA's—Children Missing in Action—when she never returned from jogging on a Sunday afternoon in April 1981. Four months later, her skeletal remains were found in a wooded area near her home. A bullet was lodged in her skull and her underwear was stuffed in her jacket



HEY, LITTLE GIRL—Pedophiles are aided by

pocket. With haunting eloquence, her father recalled:

"She used to tell me, 'Daddy, I want to be a nurse.' I would say, 'Honey you can be anything you want—a doctor, a lawyer—you are very smart. Aim high, babe' . . . and then she was gone, taken from us.

"I went out late at night when it first happened and yelled in the darkness, 'Do you hear me? This is your daddy. Are you hiding? Please let me hear your voice!' She never answered . . . she never answered . . . This week, they found another 11-year-old girl. Her panties were pulled down and her sweater covered her face and neck—raped and murdered . . . I want justice, damn, I want justice. . . I'm only an iron worker but damn, I hunger for justice!"

On the West Coast, the little girl's dreams were realized when she placed her daughter in the nursery school she had admired for years. Less than three months later, however, a medical report documented that the golden-haired child was one of the worst victims among some 300 children who allegedly had been sexually assaulted at the school. Today, sexual abuse is so pervasive in day-care centers across the country that some major insurance companies are discontinuing coverage.

*Dr. Kenneth Wooden, author, lecturer, TV reporter and producer who specializes in children's issues, is the recipient of the American Legion Auxiliary's 1986 Public Spirit Award for his work and interest in children and youth.*





national organizations whose newsletters provide tips on how to lure children into their traps.

## “Certain cults and groups are using children for prostitution and unbelievable ritual crimes.”

On Labor Day, 1982, 12-year-old “J” never returned from delivering his morning papers in the Midwest. Three years later, J’s mother and father continue to search for their son, following up on hundreds of costly false leads. The porch light burns 24 hours a day to guide the young boy home.

“C” disappeared March 26, 1984, while collecting money on her new job as newspaper carrier for *The Evening Press* in Binghamton, N.Y. Her body was found the next day in one of the customers’ homes. She had been hung from a cellar rafter, raped, murdered and hidden in a woodpile.

“C,” who was active in The American Legion Auxiliary as a junior member, joined a long silent roll call of slain and

missing children. Their numbers surpass total American deaths in the Vietnam War. According to the Bureau of Federal Statistics, 1.7 million teen-agers were victims of violent crimes in 1984, 50 percent higher than the rate of crimes against adults. If Purple Hearts were awarded to children who have been “wounded” by sexual assaults in this generation, there would be more than 6.7 million recipients.

For the sake of comparison, 1.4 million Purple Hearts have been awarded to the courageous men and women in uniform wounded in battle since the dawn of this nation. We have appropriately erected beautiful monuments to the fallen heroes of most of our wars. The only memorials to missing and murdered children, however, are scattered graves across our national landscape and family scrapbooks filled with faded photos, newspaper articles and poignant keepsakes.

During every war this country has fought, much of the military intelligence about the enemy has come directly from the foe. This is true with the information we have about those who wage war against our children.

**Enemy leadership and membership** is proliferated through national and

*Continued on page 50*

## DON'T TALK TO STRANGERS

**F**OLLOWING are typical lures child molesters use to entice their victims. Suggested prevention measures for each lure are printed in italics.

### Affection

Children are caught off guard when an advance is made by a relative, friend or someone they know.

*Children from unhappy homes are the easiest preys for “love” lures because they are starved for affection. Parents need to show affection to their children and monitor activities such as summer camp and clubs. Be cautious of adults who want to spend time alone with your child.*

### Assistance

An adult, sometimes disguised as a handicapped or elderly person, asks a child for help with groceries, to find a lost pet, for directions or other kinds of help.

*Tell your child that adults should ask other adults for help, and if an adult stops to ask directions, your child should move out of reach and be ready to run.*

### Authority

Molesters often dress as police officers, clergy, firemen and tourist officers. They often carry badges and attach flashing lights to their cars. Others have posed as store detectives to accuse children of stealing and instruct them to “come with me.”

*Tell children to ask another adult to check the ID of the “official.” Impersonation lures can be difficult to detect. Legitimate officials will not object to showing their ID.*

### Bribery

Younger children are offered candy, toys and other rewards. Older children are offered beer, drugs or money in exchange for sex.

*Be alert to new toys, gifts or money that haven’t been given through normal family channels. Teach children that no one repeatedly gives presents without wanting something in return.*

### Threats/Fear

These may be violent verbal threats, blackmail or intimidation with guns or knives.

*Continued on page 50*





# CURBING KIDDIE PORN

*One out of every five girls and one out of every 11 boys in this country will be sexually molested before they reach the age of 18. Here's what Congress is doing to protect our children.*

**By Sen. Paula Hawkins**

**A** CHILD is sexually molested every two minutes in the United States. Experts say that one in five girls and one in 11 boys will be sexually assaulted by their 18th birthday. And the sad truth is that only 20 percent of such crimes are reported to authorities.

Evidence of these atrocities is not always found on police blotters or in statements to social workers and authorities. We have the evidence in black and white and color photographs, films and videos—the tools of child pornographers.

We also have the evidence in the publications of organizations that self-righteously profess that sex between adults and children should be accepted by society as "normal" behavior.

People who traffic in kiddie porn are not found only in sleazy backrooms on Skid Row. While their numbers may be few, these people are well-organized groups that pose a clear threat to the health and welfare of our children and nation.

Organizations such as the Rene Guyon Society and the National Man-Boy Love Association—whose motto is "Sex before eight or it's too late"—espouse their warped philosophies in publications that

*Sen. Paula Hawkins has been a long-time proponent of strict laws against the exploitation and abuse of American children.*



**LANDMARK LEGISLATION**—Hawkins co-sponsored the *Child Protection Act*, which declares sexual exploitation of minor children to be a form of child abuse, unprotected by the First Amendment.

are broadly distributed.

We on Capitol Hill have taken direct steps to counter the ravages of child pornography. For example, the Child Protection Act is landmark legislation that recognizes sexual exploitation of minor children as a form of child abuse. This bill makes it impossible for child pornographers and pedophiles to hide behind the First Amendment by claiming their actions are protected by freedom of expression and freedom of the press.

In the past few years, Congress has enacted a variety of laws to protect chil-

dren not only from sexual abuse, but also from other forms of abuse. Laws such as the Missing Children's Act, Missing Children's Assistance Act and the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act were passed to protect children.

We also have fought to ensure that day-care and juvenile welfare workers, who are entrusted with the care of children, are properly screened. We have fought for adequate funding for child abuse, runaway and juvenile justice programs.

Originally, the Child Protection Act contained a provision that would include child pornography under the coverage of the Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organizations Act, better known as RICO. Much to our dismay in the Senate, this provision was deleted in the House of Representatives before the bill was enacted.

We believe the provision was dropped, not on its merits, but because of the controversy and confusion over the scope of the coverage of RICO, an issue that was then under the scrutiny of the Supreme Court.

We still favor expansion of RICO's coverage to include kiddie porn. We've reintroduced legislation on this subject, which includes not only child pornography under RICO's coverage, but also expands the law's civil action portion. This would make it possible for victims of child pornography and child prostitution to recover damages.

Under this legislation, once child pornography is determined to be infiltrated by organized crime, prosecutors would have the leverage to call for increased penalties. RICO provides injunction powers to prevent this form of smut from being distributed within states and across state lines. The original intent of the RICO civil suit provision was to encourage private enforcement of the law and, at the same time, compensate victims.

Given the heinous nature of the sexual exploitation of children, recovery for damages to the person would be consistent with the objectives of RICO. However, the emotional and long-lasting psychological harm caused by kiddie porn cannot be repaired by money.

We in Congress cannot afford to rest on our laurels with what has been done to protect our children. The U.S. Attorney General's Commission on Pornography has concluded there is a connection between pornographic materials and the sexual molestation of children.

The abused, exploited and neglected children of our nation need help; they need protection. And they deserve justice. □





# YOUNG LIVES AND LOST DREAMS: THE DRUG ABUSE EPIDEMIC

By Nancy Reagan

**T**HE use of drugs by young people is one of our country's greatest problems. Drugs are ruining the minds and bodies of our children, and if we don't do something now to change the situation, we are in danger of losing an entire generation.

The statistics are chilling. The 1984 findings of the National Institute on Drug Abuse High School Senior Survey show that more than 25 percent of high school seniors use marijuana and over 67 percent use alcohol on a monthly basis. Although these numbers represent a decline since the 1983 survey—when 27 percent used marijuana and over 69 percent used alcohol—there is still a long way to go. In the abstract, these are just numbers; but, behind the numbers are young lives and lost dreams.

The numbers—as well as the thousands of letters I receive from all over the country—indicate that drug abuse has reached epidemic proportions. Right now, it is like one of those dreaded diseases for which there is no cure. And like a disease, it knows neither social nor economic boundaries. Rich and poor, educated and uneducated, black and white, urban and rural youths are affected.

Never in my life have I felt an issue so compelling. My primary purpose in the battle against drugs has been to draw attention to the problem, to make people aware and to get them involved. That's why I decided to travel the country, to visit as many drug rehabilitation centers and prevention programs as possible and to talk to as many young people as I can.

What I have seen and the stories I have heard in the past few years are enough to make the strongest hearts

*Use of marijuana and alcohol among school children has reached epidemic proportions. Even third-graders are victims of drugs.*

break. The personal tragedies are numerous yet they have a common thread. Children who are on drugs become alienated from their communities, their families, themselves. Whatever the reason for children experimenting with drugs, the end result is always the same. They become lost in a drug-induced maze from which there seems no way out. They turn against their families and friends—the very relationships that would offer the best hope for working problems out—and instead enter a world of isolation.

I have traveled thousands of miles talking with kids, listening to them, asking them questions and learning a good deal. From Spokane, Wash., to Medford, N.J., from Lansing, Mich., to Tulsa, Okla., the children I met were anxious to tell me how they had gotten into drugs, who turned them on, what their lives had been like. They talked

about drugs I'd never heard of. They had had experiences that were hair-raising. I heard how drugs had deadened their hope, their promise, their spirit and their love. And how drugs finally destroyed the very fiber of their families.

When they finished talking, the conclusion was always the same—that they were sorry they had ever gotten involved with drugs in the first place, and that they wished more than anything to reestablish their relationships with their families and lead normal, happy lives again.

The victims are getting younger all the time. I once visited a third grade class at the E. Rivers Elementary School in Atlanta and sat in on a drug prevention program. It struck me as odd to see little boys in Cub Scout uniforms and little girls in jumpers learning about drugs that many adults haven't even heard of. The scene was both terrifying and encouraging. Terrifying because drugs are such a problem that even third graders must be prepared to deal with them. And encouraging because we are finally fighting back.

Our top priority is prevention. It is safer and more effective to thwart drug abuse before it begins, than to wait until after the fact, hoping young people will

*Continued on page 59*

**ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL—Mrs. Reagan often attends drug-prevention rallies such as this "Youth to Youth: My Choice—Drug Free!" seminar at Denison University, Ohio.**



*First Lady Nancy Reagan has appeared on TV talk shows and has traveled the nation to voice her continuing concern for children's drug problems.*





By Dr. Amitai Etzioni

**A**N old Chinese proverb—or is it a curse?—reads: “May you live in interesting times.” The times for American youngsters may have become too interesting. There is a point beyond which the surfeit of options becomes overwhelming, the expansion of freedoms turns into anarchy; and the lack of clear moral standards, into a threatening vacuum.

Americans have long been indulged in such a threatening abundance in matters concerning consumer goods. We have gradually learned to come to terms with the myriad choices among goods, largely by ignoring most of them, often maintaining loyalties to a brand we have come to trust, and by recognizing there are few real differences among many “choices.”

However, in recent decades the avalanche of choices, and the lack of guidelines, has been extended from the realm of products to our personal, social, moral and even biological existence—issues that matter a great deal. The result is a challenge that is much more bewildering than any supermarket ever was. Take the matter of family relations and sex roles. The older generation, those who had to make lifelong commitments in the 1950s, had a clearer guide. Society expected men to work outside the household; women, by and large, were homemakers. Marriage and lifelong marriage was the ideal. Having children was idealized. True, not everyone lived up to all these expectations. Some women worked outside the home even in those days; some never married, and some found no joy in having children. However, they were relatively few and were seen by others, and often by themselves, as exceptions. It was, for most of us, quite clear what a person was supposed to do.

Today the confusion starts with trivial things, such as matters of manners, and extends much deeper. Do you hold the door open and step aside to allow a

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# Growing Up In A World Of Hard CHOICES

*Bombarded by media blitzes, peer pressures, parental admonishments and contrasting life styles, many of today's young Americans are bewildered and confused. And for good reason.*

woman to enter first, as a matter of good manners, or do you insult her as a weakling, by the very same act? How do you address a letter to a woman: Miss, Madam, Ms.? If you meet a couple who are introduced as having different last names, may you assume that they are not married to one another? And, if they do share the same last name, is it safe to assume they are still married.

More seriously, is one to marry? Numerous young people defer marriage much longer than their elders used to; more do not marry at all; and many look at their marriage not as a life commitment but, in effect, as an arrangement that can, and frequently is, undone and redone. Quite often, undone and redone again. Having children is no longer an obvious choice. And work outside the home for mothers, even those with young infants, is only an option to be considered. Once the decision is made to accept employment, a follow-up decision must also be made concerning its importance. One may treat such work merely as a job, to take second seat to one's family duties, or as a career, often demanding top priority. In effect, every aspect of family life has become open to consideration, from the division of duties between husband and wife, to what is expected of children, to who gets to do what with the money earned.

The bewilderment depicted in matters of family is evident elsewhere. In the '50s you did all you could for your

loved ones. Once their hearts stopped beating, you leaned back sad and exhausted, but with the knowledge you lived up to your duty. Today, a young person is too frequently asked to participate in the heart-rending decision of whether to “pull the plug” and turn off the life-prolonging machines that have made death not an inevitable occurrence, but a guilt-ridden decision.

**B**IO-TECH advances already force many other burdensome choices, and many more are on the horizon. Instead of anticipating and welcoming their newborn with all of birth's inherent excitement, prospective parents can use well-established scientific techniques to determine if the fetus is afflicted with various illnesses and whether it is a boy or a girl. They face the awesome decision of whether to interrupt the pregnancy if the test results are not to their choosing. Pro-life groups are sure about the answer; Pro-choice supporters raise the opposite possibility. Most youngsters are caught in the middle. Genetic engineering in future decades will multiply these dilemmas.

Whatever rules remain, teens feel an enormous pressure from their peers to break them. A study of youngsters found that pressure to disregard the rules set by their parents and the community was the strongest pressure experienced by children of all ages. It was particularly





**NOW, WHERE?—The future for many American youths is less defined and more uncertain than it was for past generations. Few can look forward to improving their economic life the way their parents did.**

moved from difficult economic times into the post-World War II explosion of affluence. However, the younger generation of Americans grew up in years of declining economic growth and rising inflation in the '70s. While in recent years the economy has done better, the growth rate remains anemic. By and large, young Americans cannot look forward to as much of an improvement in their economic lives as that which their parents achieved.

**W**HILE today's youth are severely challenged, and often seem ill-prepared for enormous problems they face, there are many recent positive signs of growing up and of coming to terms with a more demanding, less cozy America. Students do study harder although not necessarily hard. SAT scores stopped their decline and have begun to rise.

Illicit drugs and cigarette smoking have declined over the past five years. There are some signs that drinking to excess is losing its appeal. The age group of 18-24 years is much more opposed to pornography than the somewhat older groups of 25-29 and 30-34. Most consider raising a family to be among their "very important objectives." The group of young-

fierce on those ages 13 to 15. Pressure to drink alcohol topped the list, followed closely by the requirement to smoke marijuana or cigarettes to be socially accepted. Engaging in sex and wearing the "right" clothes also ranked high.

The absence of guidelines, the notion that anything goes, far from being experienced by most young Americans as a joy of choice, comes across as moral anarchy. Little wonder those least able to deal with it, escape from it by joining various political, communal or religious cults that provide ultra-strong guidance. This absolute leadership is provided at the cost of surrender of personal independence and individual freedoms.

Many youngsters either flounder or flail about, while still others gradually find a way of life based on a return to a more traditional set of values.

All this has to be worked out while, in the background, sexually lurid lyrics of satanic and punk rock music blare at high decibels and TV messages flash by in rapid succession—all this on top of the threat of nuclear war. There is no reason to expect that deterrence, which has worked since the early '50s, will suddenly fail—and yet there is a gnawing sense of: Should I study, save, make long-term plans when any moment the whole world may go up in a cloud? (Fear of war was ranked, in an April 1985 Gallup poll of Americans, ages 18 to 24, as the problem of most concern, 12 times more than the fear of crime, seven times more than the fear of poverty.) And, how much trust can one put in one's elders, and in the world they built, if they cannot handle the "Big H?"

The older generation of Americans

sters who feel that the use of marijuana should be legalized, a kind of permissiveness litmus test, fell from 53 percent in 1977 to 23 percent in 1984.

Much was made of a recent survey of young people who ranked among their top American heroes, movie actors, with Clint Eastwood in the lead. However, little attention has been paid to the many youngsters who added an unexpected, write-in candidate: *mothers*.

Patriotism is back. ROTC and ROTC are again quite acceptable even on those liberal campuses where they once were a source of controversy.

It is a confused, tough age, but there are signs that the present generation may be shaping up, able to handle the challenges of shifting values and the reconstruction of the American society in the process. □

STYLING: GAIL A. HOLMES/STYLING



**WILL EASTERN  
EUROPE NATIONS  
EVER BE FREE  
OF THE SOVIETS?  
AT TIMES THERE  
ARE SIGNS THAT  
BRING HOPE.**

MORRIS BLACK STAR



**WALL OF SUPPRESSION**—Repaired and reinforced continually, the Berlin Wall has isolated the Soviet bloc nations from the free world since its construction 25 years ago.

# **EASTERN EUROPE**

## ***LOOSENING THE SOVIET GRIP***

**By Arch Puddington**

**S**INCE its fall to the Soviets some years ago, Eastern Europe has posed a special problem for the United States: What can we do to bring freedom nearer to people living in the shadow of a brutal, expansionist, totalitarian superpower?

Before addressing this question, it is worthwhile to examine current conditions in the region and separate fact from fiction about the extent of change that has taken place over the years. Keep in mind that at the time of the communist takeover, in the aftermath of World War II, a totalitarian system patterned after the Soviet Union was imposed on each of the satellite nations:

- Religion was placed under state con-

trol, and clergymen who resisted the new arrangements were arrested and sometimes killed.

- Trade unions were transformed into toothless labor fronts, more concerned with indoctrinating workers than protecting their interests.
- A single, monolithic party was established, and rival parties ruthlessly eliminated.
- Agriculture was collectivized, often by force.
- Identity papers and severe restrictions on personal movement were instituted.
- Indoctrination became the principal aim of education, and a policy of discrimination against children of the "class enemy" was adopted.
- Businesses large and small were nationalized, and the entire economy placed under state domination.

How much have things improved since the early, bleak days of Soviet rule? Unquestionably, one of the most important changes was the success of two East European nations—Yugoslavia and Albania—in breaking free from Moscow's hegemony. Tito's decision to embark on an independent course in

Yugoslavia brought with it considerably more relaxed internal policies; conversely, Albania remains an extremely closed and repressive society.

For the other East European nations—Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland and Romania—Soviet domination remains the overriding reality of political life. True enough, Moscow's influence is less pervasive today than in the past. After the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, a number of the most obnoxious policies were abandoned, such as the requirement that East European nations grant the USSR half-ownership in some of the largest economic enterprises. Moreover, some diversity within the Soviet bloc is tolerated. Thus, Hungary has experimented with various forms of economic decentralization and keeps political arrests to a minimum, while Czechoslovakia adheres to orthodox Marxist policies and does not hesitate to place dissidents on trial. However, the Kremlin will not permit an "independent road to socialism" or the establishment of independent organizations, such as the Solidarity trade union, which pose a threat to the Communist Party's pre-

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eminent position in the country.

The amount of change in Eastern Europe should not be exaggerated. For one thing, the Soviet Union today does not treat its citizens with the routine callousness that marked the Stalin era. Moreover, recent experience has taught us that liberalizing reforms are reversible. In measuring freedom in Eastern Europe, the relevant question is not whether conditions have improved since 1953, when Stalin died, but whether they have improved over the past 20 or so years. And here we find that while repression has clearly softened in some countries, in others, conditions have worsened over the past 10 or 15 years. In any event, the level of control, regimentation and downright injustice remains high today throughout the region:

- In Romania, those owning typewriters must register with the police, and the police are empowered to deny typewriter ownership if they deem it "not in the state's interest."

- In Bulgaria, a campaign has been launched to compel members of the country's leading minority group, the Turks, to adopt Bulgarian names. According to reports filtering through to the West, several hundred Turks have been killed by the authorities because of their opposition to the "Bulgarization" drive.

- East Germany still refuses to permit anyone but those living on pensions to travel to the West. And in one of the

most inhumane "trade" arrangements ever conceived, the East Germans "sell" political prisoners to West Germany—that is, permit them to emigrate—in exchange for hard currency marks.

- In Czechoslovakia, thousands of former supporters of the Prague Spring—the reform movement crushed by the Soviet Union in 1968—have been given the status of non-persons. The victims have been dismissed from their jobs and assigned the most menial occupations. If they refuse to accept state-assigned work, they can be prosecuted for living a "parasitic" way of life. As further punishment, their children are systematically prevented from enrolling in universities or holding jobs in the professions.

- In Poland, thousands upon thousands of Solidarity members have been arrested since the imposition of martial law. Many Solidarity supporters have been purged from media and university positions. Ominously, a number of Solidarity adherents have met with mysterious and unexplained fatal "accidents," with bodies discovered in rivers or in forests.

The list of techniques used by communist regimes to direct, dominate and suppress ordinary citizens is practically endless. The point is that East European communism remains a profoundly totalitarian system, with the party monopolizing control over government, work, education, religion and travel.

There is at least one major difference

**CONTROL BY FORCE—A woman in Czechoslovakia laments the Soviet invasion of her country in 1968, while Russian troops in tanks (upper left), who guard Czech streets, learn a year later that memories of freedom die slowly.**

between today and the Stalinist period. Outright persecution—terror—is generally limited to those who actively proclaim their oppositionist opinions; by contrast, terror previously might have been directed at anyone, for whatever reason the authorities might conceive. Nevertheless, the easing of terror is not due to communism's advanced humanitarianism. Rather, experience has shown that once terror becomes widespread, it inevitably reaches all the way to the upper ranks of the party. Thus, for reasons of sheer self-protection, the leadership has decided that it is essential to keep terror carefully contained.

For the average Hungarian or East German, something to be welcomed is that one can work, go to church, marry and even make a little money in the unofficial and technically illegal economy without the nagging fear of arrest.

*Continued on page 56*



# THE SCANDAL OF GOVERNMENT LENDING

By Jay Stuller

**P**EOPLE, businesses and governments are renegeing on debts owed to Uncle Sam, leaving the nation with a staggering \$64.6 billion in uncollected loans, fines and delinquent taxes.

Ohio congressman John Kasich, after reviewing the immensity of the problem, concluded the nation needs a "Debt Czar" to coordinate interagency collections of delinquent debts. He began looking into these overdue accounts last summer and, although not initially convinced of the significance of the debt, asked the Government Accounting Office to conduct a study. The results, released in December, shook the congressman.

The GAO report revealed that the United States is owed nearly \$65 billion in delinquent debt by persons, businesses and foreign and domestic governments. Included are overdue payments on student, farm mortgage and small business loans. Tardy tax payments, unpaid fines levied by the Labor and Justice departments and uncollected Customs Service duties also contribute to the total.

So do unrefunded re-enlistment bonuses from servicemen and women who have left the military before completing their terms, along with delinquent payments on federal financing of fishing vessels. State and local governments are behind on loans for sewers, water and waste systems. Several nations are lagging on payments to the Defense Security Assistance Agency, for military goods and assistance. These range from Morocco's delinquent \$30

## THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS OWED \$65 BILLION. SO WHERE'S THE BILL COLLECTOR?

million, to Egypt's more than \$400 million. Welshing runs rife through literally hundreds of other government loan programs.

"The bad news gets worse," said Kasich, "because the debt is growing every day. According to the GAO, delinquencies stood at \$50 billion Sept. 30, 1984, and \$64.6 billion in June 1985. That represents a mind-boggling growth rate of \$53.5 million each day! And with over \$444.5 billion owed, but not now delinquent, the potential for further problems is enormous."

**T**he government is currently doing relatively little to collect its rightfully due monies. And yet, while the government must borrow to cover its deficits, it continues to make loans. "A glance at the GAO study shows that the government makes financial assistance available for just about anyone to do just about anything," said Kasich. In fact, the various Washington agencies sponsor from 400 to 450 separate lending programs.

Many agencies lack the interest or resolve to collect overdue loan payments, and to date there's been little intergovernmental cooperation in tackling the problem. Hence, the need for an aggressive "Debt Czar" to cut across lines of authority.

Establishing a national collector, said Kasich, wouldn't mean creating a new executive department with its own bureaucracy. "He could work out of the Treasury Department or the Office of Management and Budget. Precisely where isn't important. What's important is putting someone in charge, with adequate authority, and making that office responsible for collecting payments due the federal government."

By the end of 1985, Kasich had twice discussed this matter with White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan, seeking the President's support. Meanwhile, the congressman worked on legislation to create a "Debt Czar." "The wheels are turning," said Kasich, "but it's going to take some time to generate concrete action. This is not the type of matter that's wrapped up quickly."

Or easily. Many of the government loan programs were established on high ideals, serving the government's purpose in helping its citizens. For example, a better-educated populace is an admirable societal goal. Consequently, since 1965, more than 20 million college students have borrowed about \$42 billion from private lenders—thanks to the federal Guaranteed Student Loan (GSL) program—to further their studies.

The family farm is a venerated American institution; however, it's economically unstable. The Farmers Home Administration, which handles crop loans, mortgages, emergency loans and other assistance, has benefited farmers who otherwise could not arrange financing. The Small Business Administration has often provided bailout loans to farmers, businessmen and others who qualified for help under flood, hurricane and other disaster-relief programs. Such financing is clearly well-intended. It is not, however, well managed.

For many years the government didn't stress repayment of the GSL monies. Of the 20 million students, 1.6 million defaulted on loans totaling \$2.5 billion. "Because the loans were guaranteed by

*Jay Stuller, a San Francisco-based journalist and frequent contributor to this magazine, specializes in government issues.*





the government, the private lenders who made them didn't work hard to collect on delinquencies," explained Brookings Institute economist Barry Bosworth. Bosworth said about 40 percent of the FHA loans are delinquent today. Before leaving the Office of Management and Budget, director David Stockman campaigned to dismantle the SBA, saying that it "indiscriminately sprays a faint mist of subsidized credit into the weakest and most prosaic nooks and crannies" of the American economy. According to OMB figures, the default rate on SBA loans is 19 percent. Commercial banks have default rates of only 1.5 percent to 2 percent.

Even at that, said Bosworth, the default rates are bogus. "The government doesn't like to show bad debts.

## "WHILE THE GOVERNMENT MUST BORROW TO COVER ITS DEFICITS, IT CONTINUES TO MAKE LOANS."

Many agencies will arrange for or guarantee new loans to pay off the old ones. The old one appears successfully repaid, when it's really only covered for another year or two."

One of the major problems in collecting on delinquencies, Bosworth said, is that the programs are administered by agencies that are responding to specific constituencies. Because the Commerce Department depends on business for much of its political support, it's naturally going to go easier on businesses. Likewise, the FHA looks out for the interests of agriculture. "The bureaucrats are people who provide support, and don't think of themselves as bankers, and are consequently not really responsible about money," said Bosworth. "They appear more concerned with representing constituents than in representing the entire government."

Delinquent payments and defaults are only part of the story. "There's an awful lot of 'off-budget' debt that few people are aware of," said Bosworth. "Government loans are made at relatively low interest rates. Farmers Home, for instance, is getting only 5 percent to 5.5 percent on its money." The subsidy costs of government lending don't appear in the budget, but are obviously a toll the taxpayer bears.

In some programs, as with disaster relief loans, borrowers don't even expect to repay. "Congress authorizes loans in the heat of the moment," said Bosworth. "The GAO has interviewed recipients of such loans, and found that borrowers were encouraged to take the funds and told 'don't worry if you can't pay it back.'"

Disaster relief is a mark of a sound civilization. But as Bosworth said, "It's not a legitimate credit program." Backing a loan to a farmer facing a 90 percent chance of going broke, with or without the funding, is morally kind. But framing it as a loan, intimating to taxpayers that it will be repaid, is fallacious. To partially cure its delinquent debt problems, and be fair to taxpayers, government must portray its credit programs honestly, drawing better distinctions between loans and outright assistance.

Of the nearly \$65 billion owed the government, the largest single amount is about \$41.1 billion due the Treasury Department, mostly representing overdue taxes, interest and fines. While short-staffed and basically overwhelmed, the IRS is attempting to catch up, using computers linked to local computers, allowing them to track the assets of stubborn non-taxpayers.

The remaining \$23.4 billion is spread out, an uncoordinated sea of bad paper. These monies are tough to find.

During the past few years the federal government has made a few efforts to tighten its debt-collection process. The Debt Collection Act of 1982, for instance,

*Continued on page 54*

STYLING: JAWITKA KOSZCZAK





## IS THE ABRAMS TANK THE BOSS OF THE BATTLEFIELD OR JUST AN EXPENSIVE SITTING DUCK?



# THE GREAT TANK CONTROVERSY

By Michael Duffy

**I**T'S big. It's fast. It's expensive. And it's probably one of the deadliest machines ever fielded by a conventional army.

But the U.S. Army's M1 Abrams tank is also one of the more controversial weapons to come out of the Pentagon's often-criticized procurement plans. Some armor experts and Pentagon gadflies say the tank is too heavy and costly. Others say that the tank's gas turbine engine radiates enough heat to make it a sitting duck for heat-seeking missiles.

This year, with more than 3,000 M1s

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in Army arsenals and another 4,000 on order, the tank is at a crossroads. Critics will be following the tank everywhere, noting its every flaw, mustering arguments to kill or curtail the Army's biggest procurement account. Proponents, led by the Army and the numerous companies that helped manufacture the 60-ton behemoth, will point to successes in tests here and in Europe.

For the Army, the M1's remarkable abilities are self-explanatory. The tank that bears the name of former Vietnam commander, Gen. Creighton Abrams, is more than 32 feet long and nearly 12 feet wide. While the tank is nearly twice the weight of its World War II counterpart, the 37-ton M4, the Abrams is two feet shorter, and about seven and a half feet in height. The M1 was also designed for speed: Its 1,500-horsepower engine provides a top speed of 45 mph, compared to the M4's 38 mph.

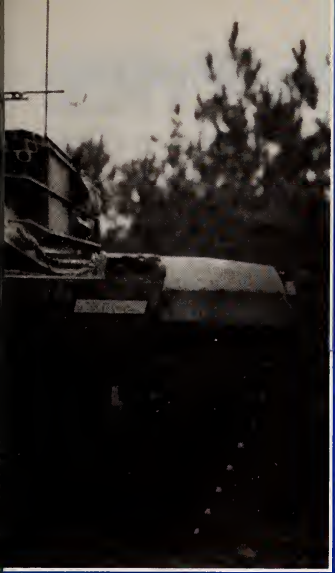
But what "tankers" love most about the M1 can't be fully described in num-

bers—much less in public. Though Army officials won't discuss it, the tank's armor, particularly that on the front of its hull, is recognized as a step beyond that on the M60 tank and a key part of the tank's survivability. Just as important are the tank's sophisticated electronics, particularly its thermal imaging sight and its laser rangefinder. The two components, which together cost nearly \$1 million, give the crew of four the ability to see enemies quickly and clearly and then fix on a target, both at night and on the move. Routinely, the Army officials say, gunners score direct hits on targets from more than a mile away.

"The Abrams is the most powerful, mobile and survivable combat vehicle we have ever fielded. We believe it can outperform any other tank on the battlefield," stated the service's formal request to Congress last year. The Army began buying the Abrams models in 1980. The cost is about \$2.7 million each.

Ironically, the tank's dazzling capa-





SCOTT W. THRENT

**A QUESTION OF WORTH—The high cost of M1s has critics demanding proof of the tank's survivability.**

Consider Rep. Beverly Bryon of Maryland. Though conservative, she recently drilled Army Chief of Staff Gen. John Wickham on the infrared signature produced by the tank's gas turbine engine. "We've seen an increase of heat-seeking missiles, and yet on the M1, we have a very high exhaust temperature," Bryon recently told Wickham.

The exact nature of the tank's heat signature is unknown, but has been reported to measure several thousand degrees. One Army colonel recently described it privately as "big as a Holiday Inn." But the Army, as if to acknowledge the problem, has reduced the heat signature on its new modification program of the Abrams, known as the M1-A1. The improved version, with a bigger, 120mm gun and improved armor, will incorporate an auxiliary power unit so crews may idle their tank while it's standing still.

As for the tank's reliability, the Army pointed with pride to a series of recent field tests, conducted both in Europe and the United States. During the trials, which included NATO's giant armor exercise known as REFORGER, M1 tank teams reported ready for duty 96 percent of the time—a nearly perfect "mission capable" rate. Overall, the M1 is averaging 385 mean miles between failure, above its 320-mile combat reliability requirement. Individual systems in the tank, while less reliable than the overall tank, are also well above requirement, averaging 126 mean miles between failure, above its 101-mile requirement.

The overall performance rate is backed up by better-than-required performances by other parts of the tank. Engine durability and sprocket life are both turning in better-than-required performance. The M1 is requiring less time than anticipated in the shop each day—36 minutes as opposed to 45 minutes—and at its routine 1,500-mile checkpoint, requires 23 hours rather than 36 hours. The tank is also showing up for unscheduled maintenance—a highly revered measure of reliability—less frequently than Army shop foremen expected.

One reason for the tank's high marks is that its maker, General Dynamics Land Systems Division, is regularly turning out "defect-free" tanks. Such flawless vehicles are a rarity in military production, but the firm's domestic marketing director, Paul Curtis, said GD is delivering several each month to the Army. Meanwhile, on less-than-perfect vehicles, the average number of "write

ups" per tank decreased from 62 during the first three months of 1983 to 17 in the first quarter of 1985.

Seymour Lorber, the Army's director of quality and reliability, described the M1's performance as one of the more overlooked parts of the M1 controversy. Like other Army officials, he noted that tank crews love the tank and swear by its capabilities. "The tank's doing great, but nobody cares anymore," he said recently.

Not everyone puts a lot of faith in the Army's numbers. Because the data were compiled in field tests and not in battle-field-like operational tests, military reformers say they are less valuable.

"I couldn't give a damn about what a bunch of guys tooling around Europe think," said Paul Hoven, a Vietnam helicopter pilot now with the Project on Military Procurement in Washington. "You put in a 20-year-old and of course he's going to love it. The only real test of the M1 is scientifically controlled operational tests, and there haven't been any."

Such uncertainties surround the M1 in 1986. Many lawmakers wonder about the tank's abilities, but can do little to prove—or disprove—their hunches.

Even if Hoven and other M1 critics would prefer a different tank, they also acknowledge that it is too late. With nearly half of the M1 purchase completed, many criticisms are largely moot. At best, critics can only press the Army to apply legitimate criticisms as the service begins work on the tank of the future—a project already started. □

**ROLLING THUNDER—With its laser rangefinder, the Abrams' cannon can wipe out a moving target a mile away.**

GENERAL DYNAMICS



bilities seem to be a touchstone for its critics. The high cost, they say, prevents the United States from buying more than about 800 a year. The result is that the Warsaw Pact nations can easily maintain their three-to-one tank advantage over NATO. And it is an armored conflict that most strategists expect in the next European war. Moreover, critics say the sophisticated systems are one reason why the Army anticipates twice the maintenance on the M1 as on the 1960s vintage M60.

**C**RITICISMS don't end there. So large is the M1, critics note, that the Air Force's largest transport, the C-5B Galaxy, can carry but a single M1 at a time. The Air Force's workhorses, the smaller C-130s and C-141s, can't carry the tank at all. As a result, the Navy would have to launch a small armada of ships before any tanks could be used overseas, outside of Europe. What good is a tank, they ask, if you can't get it where you need it? A corollary criticism holds that the M1 is too heavy for many bridges in Europe. But this is probably a red herring: Not only is 70 percent of Europe unsuitable for armored warfare, but also signs designating bridge weight are usually downloaded, or underestimated, by traffic engineers. Most European bridges can hold up to 60 tons. Besides, tanks are designed to be used off roads.

Military critics today are frequently well-versed in the mechanics of war and able to do verbal battle with generals.



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## As The American Legion Magazine

went to press in late January, experts were predicting that Congress would be unable to find an alternative budget reduction plan before the deadline prescribed by the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Amendment.

Congress didn't reconvene for the second session of the 99th Congress until Jan. 21, leaving fewer than six weeks to find alternative budget cuts of \$11.7 billion before the automatic cuts required on March 1. Anticipating this, the government already had suspended this year's COLA for federal, military, railroad and Black Lung retirees.

Under the new law, COLAs for veterans compensation and pension are exempt from suspension or reduction, and VA health care cuts are limited to a maximum of 1 percent in FY '86 and 2 percent in FY '87, '88, '89 and '90.

March 1 cuts in the VA budget are:

- \$84.8 million in direct health care.
- \$21.8 million in major construction.
- \$5.8 million in minor construction.
- \$39.4 million in readjustment benefits.
- \$32 million in general operating expenses.
- \$32.6 million in general medical care.
- \$8.1 million in medical and prosthetics research.
- \$5.8 million in burial benefits.
- \$936,000 in grants for state extended-care facilities.
- \$128,000 in grants for state cemeteries.
- \$100,000 in special therapeutic and rehabilitation funds.
- \$21,000 in grants to the Republic of the Philippines.

Some limitations also will be placed on VA insurance, home loan and hospital canteen service programs. The total cuts represent a 4.3 percent reduction in all VA programs not exempted under the new law.

**The means test** and third-party reimbursement—barring any House-Senate disagreement—appear to be on their way to becoming law this year as part of the cost-cutting legislation.

Despite highly vocal opposition by the Legion—the lone veterans organization fighting the two proposals—Congress just barely missed passing the means test and third party reimbursement before the first session of the 99th Congress recessed in December. Failure to approve this legislation was not because of any objections to the means test or third party reimbursement, but because of disagreement over Superfund hazardous waste provisions.

Approval of the means test would require veterans seeking VA health care for non-service-connected illnesses to prove their inability to pay for treatment. Veterans with incomes above certain levels would have to make co-payments.

Third-party reimbursement would give the VA the authority to collect the costs of care from private insurance held by veterans. The Legion strongly opposes the plans, denouncing them as giant steps toward dismantling the VA health-care delivery system.

## The Emergency Veterans Job Training

program was modified, improved and extended for an additional year before Congress adjourned in December. When the Senate took up H.R. 1538 to provide a simple 3.1 percent

COLA for disability compensation, the jobs program extension was added at the last minute, largely because of the Legion's urging and effective parliamentary maneuvering by Sen. John Heinz of Pennsylvania. Earlier, the Senate just wanted to pass the COLA and send it to the House for quick approval before the holiday break. The House finally approved the measure, but not before the Senate added the job program.

One significant change to the program reduces the period a veteran must be unemployed before being eligible to participate. Veterans now need only be unemployed for 10 of the past 15 weeks to be eligible, rather than 15 of the past 20 weeks, as was previously required. Also, the enrollment period was extended from Feb. 1, 1986, to Jan. 1, 1987.

But the apparent major victory for veterans may be meaningless. The program extension was so late that no appropriations were approved in regular appropriations bills. For the program to continue, it will require a supplemental appropriation of FY '86 funds soon.

The program also changed its name to the Veterans Job Training Act, a measure which has been endorsed by the Legion for some time. Since the program was established during the last recession, it was designated as an "emergency" program. The Legion argued that the program should not have been named for the economic situation; rather, the name should reflect more accurately the permanent employment needs of veterans.

## The Targeted Jobs Tax Credit

program is another unresolved piece of legislation that significantly affects veterans. The program, which has been invaluable in finding employment for thousands of Vietnam-era and disabled veterans, expired Dec. 31, 1985. However, the program could get new life if Congress grants a temporary extension early in 1986 and provides the program with more longevity by including it in the final version of tax reform legislation this summer.

The House passed a temporary extension just before the Christmas break, but the Senate refused to go along. As a result, no veteran has been placed in a TJTC job this year.

Under the program, employers hiring TJTC participants may claim a maximum credit of \$3,000 for the first year of employment and \$1,500 for the second year. The House, however, wants to modify the program to give less credit to employers, and for only the first year.

## The Coast Guard

found itself at the other end of rescue operations, as Congress restored \$250 million to the service's budget for the year. In restoring the funds, the lawmakers reaffirmed the Legion's long-standing position that the Coast Guard is vitally important to the nation for its work in air-sea rescue, marine law enforcement and drug interdiction, and as a valuable arm to the Navy in war.

If the cutback had occurred, the Coast Guard would have experienced up to a 13 percent reduction in services, including the loss of 6,000 military and civilian personnel and a 33 percent reduction in aircraft and ships.

To offset the reduction, Congress transferred funds and added amendments for new funding to the omnibus continuing appropriations bill, Public Law 99-190. □



# PURSuing QUALITY DESPITE A LEAN BUDGET

## VA'S GREATEST CHALLENGE IS TO ESTABLISH FAIR ELIGIBILITY RULES, SAYS ITS CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR, DR. JOHN W. DITZLER.

**American Legion Magazine:** What is the future of VA health care?

**Dr. Ditzler:** It will be influenced by the competitive nature of health care throughout the nation, but we are confident of our abilities to continue providing excellent care to veterans. The long-range future, as I see it, is bright. If we become involved in a third-party reimbursement system, I believe insurance companies will realize that the VA provides excellent care at less cost than the private sector.

**Q.** Do you believe Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Centers can make, or are making, a significant contribution to the VA's efforts to provide care for aging veterans?

**A.** While much has been accomplished and much remains to be accomplished in geriatric research and education, we expect GRECC programs to contribute new knowledge to geriatrics, gerontology and the problems of aging. GRECCs effectively educate students, practicing clinicians and new clinical investigators; and develop new, cost-effective models for improved delivery of health care services to elderly veterans.

During 1984, total research funding awarded was \$11.6 million—a 53 percent increase over 1983, and a 98 percent increase over 1982.

During 1984, the 10 geriatric centers provided training to 38 geriatric fellows, 568 health professional trainees, more than 2,000 practicing VA health professionals and numerous other VA and non-VA professionals through more than 3,000 lectures and presentations. Expansion of the geriatric centers program will increase our medical knowledge and capabilities to treat the problems of aging.

**Q.** Does the VA accept Alzheimer's patients?

**A.** The VA accepts Alzheimer's patients as it accepts all patients with non-service-connected disabilities—that is, on the basis of medical need, legal eligibility and available resources, including alternatives to institutional care. When a VA medical center cannot admit a veteran who applies for admission with a dementing illness, Social Work Service helps the veteran and the family find other appropriate sources of care.

During 1984, more than 7,800 veterans with a primary diagnosis of Alzheimer's received care in VA medical centers.

**Q.** What is the VA system currently doing, and what do you think it could do, to help with the increasing problem of Alzheimer's disease among older veterans?

**A.** We provide hospital, nursing home, outpatient clinic, domiciliary and adult day-health-care to veterans with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders. We provide education to our staff in geriatric, interdisciplinary and other professional training programs, and we are publishing a program guide on dementia. VA investigators conduct research on the possible causes of Alzheimer's and other dementing diseases, and on the optimum care of patients with these diseases. We are organizing resources to meet the rising demand to provide treatment of patients, including outpatient care and care in the home. We are seriously studying what more we could do to support family caregivers and cooperate with community resources.

**Q.** Everyone seems to agree that the biggest challenge facing VA health care today is the advancing age of the 10 million WW II veterans, with an average age of 64.5. Do you think VA's Department of Medicine and Surgery is equipped to deal with the sheer volume of these patients who may be approaching VA for health care?

**A.** The average age of the veteran population is increasing. Our statistics project that there will be more than 7 million veterans over the age of 65 by 1990, and more than 9 million by the year 2000.

Our challenge, however, is to continue to provide quality medical care to all who qualify as defined by law, while providing that care within the constraints of national resources. We must be creative in the development of program initiatives that will meet the health-care needs of the aging population by both inpatient and outpatient treatments. Our goal



is to maintain excellence of care for as many veterans as our system will allow.

**Q.** How far has the VA progressed toward implementing provisions of the Veterans Health Care Act of 1984, in regard to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder?

**A.** We have 13 special PTSD programs, including the National Center on PTSD at VAMC Cleveland, which is named the National Center for Stress Recovery.

Fifty-two new Vet Center Programs were recently activated, bringing the number of Vet Center Programs to 189. These offer readjustment counseling to many veterans suffering from PTSD.

For FY 1985, the diagnosis and treatment of PTSD was designated as a national training priority.

The revised *VA Physicians Guide* includes a chapter on the symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of PTSD and other psychiatric disorders of the Vietnam experiences. This guide has been published and distributed to all VA medical centers.

A bibliography on PTSD containing more than 600 references has been published and distributed to all VA Medical Centers.

The National Center for Stress Recovery has activated the Assessment and Evaluation component and the Educational component of the center to fulfill the research and training activities mandated by law.

**Q.** Does DM&S plan to establish additional inpatient PTSD units?

**A.** We will continue to plan for the expansion of our present program in accordance with the needs of the veterans as resources become available. The establishment of these programs, of course, is dependent upon funding.

I must point out, however, many VAMCs without spe-

**'O**UR GOAL is to maintain excellence of care for as many veterans as our system will allow."

cialized programs provide treatment in general psychiatry inpatient and outpatient programs. VA patients discharged with a primary diagnosis of PTSD increased from 1,300 patients in 1982 to 6,000 patients in 1984. There are 126 VA medical facilities providing treatment for veterans with PTSD.

**Q.** To what extent is the VA conducting research on the effects of Agent Orange exposure?

**A.** When the VA became aware of concerns about Agent Orange in 1978, the agency took immediate steps in what has become a continuing search for answers. The first step was an extensive effort to gather authoritative information on Agent Orange and other known phenoxy herbicides from scientific literature and other sources. This led to the establishment of special agency and interagency committees to share information and provide recommendations to the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs and to provide a focus for the development of appropriate Agent Orange policy.

The VA's primary focus is on the support or conduct of research which will assist in the scientific resolution of the health issues raised by the use of Agent Orange.

Research being conducted by the VA's Agent Orange Projects Office includes:

- Vietnam Veterans Mortality Study
- Soft Tissue Sarcoma Study
- Review of Soft Tissue Sarcoma Cases in Patient Treatment File
- Retrospective Study of Dioxins/Furans in Adipose Tissue

**Q.** What is the most serious problem that confronts the VA health-care system today—excluding the obvious one of insufficient dollars—and what does the VA plan to do about it?

**A.** For me, the greatest challenge to the VA is to define priorities and eligibilities in a way that is fair in matching resources provided so we can provide care to those veterans to whom this nation owes the most. This must be done within the constraint of resources through documentation of congressional intent and within well-defined regulations.

Our second greatest challenge is to adjust to the changing nationwide approach to providing health care. We will do this by continuing to provide one standard of care to all who receive care within the VA system. That standard of care will be one of excellence.

Into that arena, the VA is leading the way in providing quality care not only to beneficiaries who qualify for the highest entitlements, but also for those who might otherwise fall into society's cracks and not receive the same quality. □

*Dr. John W. Ditzler, a veteran of the Army Medical Corps in World War II and Korea, has been the VA's chief medical director since November, 1984.*





# **“DON’T VICTIMIZE THE VA,” Renaud Tells 99th Congress**

*The following statement by Nat'l Cmdr.  
Dale L. Renaud was excerpted from the  
Congressional Record.*

**D**URING my first six months as National Commander, I gained an even greater respect for The American Legion's commitment to the nation—a sense of responsibility demonstrated virtually every day through efforts directed toward, among others, the classroom, the local hospital, city hall and Capitol Hill. In 1985, most of those efforts were concentrated on Capitol Hill, where our organization worked diligently to protect veterans programs from unreasonable budget cuts, and to convince Congress that the Veterans Administration's record of efficiency is unsurpassed by any other agency of its size.

As National Commander, I respect the VA's record of service and, as a businessman, I respect its performance in providing a good product at a fair price.

From 1975 through 1984, federal spending for veterans programs increased by 55 percent, compared to a 163 percent average among other federal agencies. If government-wide spending had maintained VA's 10-year pace, federal revenues (taxes and other receipts) generated in 1984 would have been \$168 billion greater than federal spending.

Unlike virtually all other agency budgets, one major account within VA's budget has automatically dropped to less than one-fifth its previous size. This item, educational assistance provided by the GI Bill, was funded at \$5.5 billion in 1976 and is expected to cost less than \$1 billion in 1986. When considering the billions of dollars in increased taxes paid by former GI Bill participants, the program's contribution to federal budget solvency is even more obvious.

As the second largest VA account, veterans medical care has been, and is expected to be, the principal focus of avid budget-cutters in Washington, D.C. Even this account, despite the general rapid rise in medical costs, has been

subjected to regular cost containment over the past 10 years. Since 1975, federal spending for Medicare has increased three times faster than the budget for veterans medical treatment. Over the same period, VA's health-care costs have risen only 40 percent as fast as those of the private medical sector.

**I**T'S obvious that VA has not been a burden to the American taxpayer and there can be no factually based accusation that VA has aggravated the government's budget dilemma. However, as a major government agency, VA is again being asked to sacrifice its “fair share” to restore financial stability.

Amid mounting public pressure to regain some control over budget deficits, Congress and the President agreed last December to the most sweeping plan in history to reduce federal spending. Designed to balance the federal budget by 1991, this new law (P.L. 99-177), required cuts of \$11.7 billion in the cur-

rent fiscal year, \$36 billion in Fiscal Year 1987, and similar amounts in each of the following four years. Known for its authors—Senators Gramm, Rudman and Hollings—the plan is designed to enforce certain aspects of the existing budget process and to slightly accelerate the process.

Gramm-Rudman-Hollings assumes that of the next five Presidential budget requests submitted annually to Congress in January, each will conform to deficit targets set forth in the new law, beginning with a figure of \$144 billion in Fiscal Year 1987. Congress may adjust the President's request, but all program savings and 13 regular appropriations bills must be enacted by late summer. The total cost of these measures will not be allowed to exceed the governing deficit target.

If Congress and the President fail to agree on these budget and appropriations bills by Sept. 1 of any year, a “sequester” order will be issued, man-





dating across-the-board cuts in many federal agencies effective Oct. 1. These cuts, to be equally shared among defense and non-defense programs, will be at a percentage necessary to bring overall spending in line with that year's target.

Under a sequester order, several programs—including veterans compensation, pension and health care—would be sheltered from the automatic cuts. Compensation and pension would be exempt from any “freeze” in cost-of-living adjustments, and health care funds could not be reduced more than 2 percent. However, it must be emphasized that none of these sheltering pro-

visions would apply if budget agreement is reached through the normal process.

We are currently encountering an example of this as Congress begins to consider the Fiscal Year 1987 budget. A variety of proposals have surfaced already to impose dramatic limitations in VA spending. “Increased productivity” ideas and related proposals seek to eliminate thousands of VA health-care people, while fewer medical services for “non-priority veterans” are expected to shrink VA’s annual inpatient caseload by more than 60,000 and its outpatient treatment capacity by more than one million.

**“WE SIMPLY cannot afford to allow the VA to be victimized by a budget-cutting frenzy in which dollars may be saved with little regard for associated human costs.”**

Recommendations also have been made to severely limit major hospital construction projects and to withhold funding for others. Regardless of local or regional demands, all replacement hospitals are expected to be built on a smaller scale.

These health-care restrictions are being presented at a time when aging veterans’ demands for treatment are increasing and VA construction projects are routinely coming in under budget.

Veterans of all ages could be affected because of challenges to recently enacted services to provide employment counseling, vocational rehabilitation training and drug/alcohol abuse treatment. These initiatives are relatively inexpensive and they were precisely tailored to meet specialized needs.

**T**HE American Legion, while supporting an adequate VA budget now and in future years, does not have to use a sophisticated campaign. Our message to Congress is simple and our position is reinforced by budgetary facts. We are convinced that VA has done an admirable job of serving its veterans within limited resources.

Credit for the job VA has done should be shared with Congress for constantly overseeing the manner in which veterans benefits and services have been delivered. These oversight activities have combined to create a balance between meeting the legitimate needs of veterans and observing the limits of federal funds.

Despite VA’s enviable record of cost-effectiveness, proposals to cut deeply into veterans programs will be items on the congressional agenda. We have already seen evidence of such cuts as work began last month to develop FY ’87 budget guidelines.

The task that lies ahead will be difficult. Decisions to be made in Washington this year could fundamentally change veterans benefits and services, and excessive VA budget cuts would almost certainly destroy VA’s ability to carry out its assigned mission.

Without the help of concerned Legionnaires, these unfortunate events will likely occur. It, therefore, is our collective responsibility to constantly remind the nation’s leaders that VA remains a strong example of cost-effectiveness and that elimination of services to veterans would likely transfer demand for those services to other government-sponsored programs, probably at greater expense. We simply cannot afford to allow the VA to be victimized by a budget-cutting frenzy in which dollars may be saved with little regard for human costs. □



# OLDER VETERANS MAKE VALUABLE EMPLOYEES

By Donald E. Shasteen

**F**OR many veterans, "it seems like yesterday" when they left their homes to go to war. But the facts are that the wars were many years ago and the veterans population, as it ages, is presenting the nation with special needs, including the need for job training and placement.

By 1990 the number of veterans 65 and older will have more than doubled to almost 9 million from 4 million in 1980. The numbers reflect the general trend of the nation's population with more people living longer lives, swelling the ranks of mature and senior citizens. What this means to the veteran, especially the older veteran who wants or needs a job, is unclear. "Employ the Older Worker Week" this month is an excellent time to focus on some of the issues of employing older veterans and the programs already in place to assist them.

Aging today is often regarded as a liability, in spite of the numerous studies that have shown older workers have better attendance records, learn new skills as well as younger workers, and generally pay dividends to employers. As the older population increases, and the proportion of younger workers decreases, however, it will be necessary to keep our older workers in the work force. The Department of Labor, through the office of the Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training, will continue to ensure that older veterans have an opportunity to work if they want or need to.

More than 10 million veterans, largely male, served in World War II, and

another 4 million served in Korea. Of those men who served during the Vietnam era, about 2 million are more than 40 years old, the age that triggers eligibility for action under the Age Discrimination in Employment Act.

As the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training, I am responsible for helping veterans of all ages to find work. Our office coordinates all activities to ensure that veterans applying for work in any of the 2,400 offices of the State Job Services receive the proper services necessary to help find jobs. This may be employment counseling, occupational testing, referral to training programs or prior-

***"Older workers have better attendance records and learn new skills as well as younger workers."***

ity referral to a job. However, we are increasingly aware that many of our veterans are becoming "older veterans," many of them displaced after longtime employment. Let's review the preferences and services available to assist older veterans find work.

Each state has a director of Veterans Employment and Training and assistants employed by the Department of Labor who work with employment specialists, especially those involved in the State Job Service agencies—the federal and state system of employment services financed by employer taxes.

Each job service office must have one or more local veterans employment representatives. Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program staffs bring disabled veterans into the job service and develop jobs in the community for them. From July 1, 1984, through March 31, 1985, 366,000 veterans were placed in jobs through the State Job Service agencies. Almost as many—359,000 persons 60 years or older—also were placed in jobs.

There also are special employment programs for people, including veterans, over age 55. The Job Training Partnership Act aids poor people. During 1984, nearly 67,000 veterans were enrolled under the program, 8 percent of them 55 or older. They receive on-the-job training, institutional or classroom training, remedial education and basic skill training, as well as assistance and counseling in job search.

JTPA also requires that 3 percent of the money provided under the act must be used to train and find jobs for persons 55 or older and poor people.

The Senior Community Service Employment Program authorized by the Older American Act, provides 62,000 job opportunities to older Americans. Besides affording participants work experience in such areas as health care, nutrition, home repair, weatherization and other community service activities, counseling and annual physical examinations also are provided.

As I mentioned, my office coordinates the Job Service programs in all states to ensure that veterans are receiving meaningful employment services. In many states, however, the Job Service has been able to provide even better services to veterans, thanks to the efforts and cooperation of active and concerned Legionnaires.

One example is job clubs, which can be sponsored by any interested group. These clubs allow jobless veterans to get together to compare notes on job hunting, get hints on how to prepare resumes, or how to dress for an interview. The clubs are particularly valuable to older job seekers, veterans who have been comfortably employed for several years and have forgotten what they knew about job hunting.

I applaud The American Legion's longtime efforts to promote the employment of older workers through its program of recognizing employers with good records for hiring and retaining older workers. In many states the Job Service staff and Legion posts work together in identifying such companies. It all helps to break down a real prejudice toward older workers. □



*Donald E. Shasteen is the Department of Labor's assistant secretary for Veterans Employment and Training.*

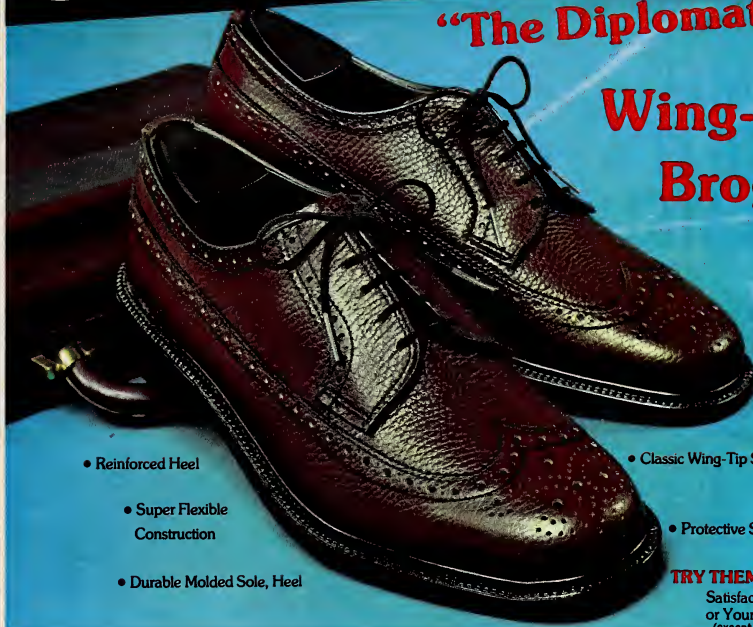


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# ACT NOW, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

**T**HIS year The American Legion expects veterans programs to come under unprecedented attack as Congress and the President address the problems of balancing the budget. Not only VA programs, but also veterans programs operated by the Small Business Administration and the Department of Labor will be severely curtailed unless you help save them.

Use the three tear-out postcards to write your messages of concern to both your senators and your representative.

Should Congress sense wavering public support for veterans, many vital programs for all generations of veterans will be eliminated or drastically reduced. A few of these include employment assistance, health care, vet centers, the VA home loan program and veterans preference.

Under ordinary circumstances, Congress has recognized the special status of veterans and honored our nation's commitment to those who have borne the brunt of battle. But these are not ordinary times, and Congress must be reminded of its promises to veterans.

With Congress scheduled to complete action on next year's budget blueprint by April 15, there is no time to delay.

Write, visit or call their offices. When writing, avoid form letters and petitions. Use your own writing style; explain your case briefly, firmly, politely; and make sure you state your position clearly. Let your voice be heard, before it's too late!



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Dennis DeConcini (D)

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Paula Hawkins (R)

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Spark M. Matsunaga (D)

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4. Tom Bevill (D)  
5. Ronnie G. Flippo (D)  
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3. John Paul Hammerschmidt (R)  
4. Beryl Anthony Jr. (D)

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District  
1. Douglas H. Bosco (D)  
2. Gene Chappie (R)  
3. Robert T. Matsui (D)  
4. Vic Fazio (D)  
5. Sala Burton (D)  
6. Barbara Boxer (D)  
7. George Miller (D)  
8. Ronald V. Dellums (D)  
9. Fortney H. "Pete" Stark (D)  
10. Don Edwards (D)  
11. Tom Lantos (D)  
12. Ed Schauer (R)  
13. Norman Y. Mineta (D)  
14. Norman D. Shumway (R)  
15. Tony Coelho (D)  
16. Leon E. Panetta (D)  
17. Charles Pashayan Jr. (R)  
18. Richard H. Lehman (D)

19. Robert J. Lagomarsino (R)  
20. William M. Thomas (R)  
21. Bobbi Fiedler (R)  
22. Carlos J. Moorhead (R)  
23. Anthony C. Bevilacqua (D)  
24. Henry A. Waxman (D)  
25. Edward R. Roybal (D)  
26. Howard L. Berman (D)  
27. Mel Levine (D)  
28. Julian C. Dixon (D)  
29. Augustus F. Hawkins (D)  
30. Matthew G. Martinez (D)  
31. Mervyn M. Dymally (D)  
32. Glenn M. Anderson (D)  
33. David Dreier (R)  
34. Esteban Edward Torres (D)  
35. Jerry Lewis (R)  
36. George E. Brown Jr. (D)  
37. Al McCandless (R)  
38. Robert K. Dornan (R)  
39. William E. Dannemeyer (R)  
40. Robert E. Bachman (R)  
41. Bill Lowery (R)

INFORMATION, CAPITOL SWITCHBOARD:  
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42. Dan Lungren (R)	6. Dan L. Burton (R)	MISSISSIPPI	5. Stephen L. Neal (D)	8. Ed Jones (D)
43. John T. Packard (R)	7. John T. Myers (R)	District	6. Howard Coble (R)	9. Harold E. Ford (D)
44. Jim Bates (D)	8. Frank McCloskey (D)		7. Charlie Rose (D)	<b>TEXAS</b>
45. Duncan L. Hunter (R)	9. Lee H. Hamilton (D)		8. W.G. "Bill" Hefner (D)	District
	10. Andrew Jacobs Jr. (D)		9. J. Alex McMillan (R)	1. Jim Chapman (D)
<b>COLORADO</b>			10. James T. Brohyll (R)	2. Charles Wilson (D)
District			11. Bill Henderson (R)	3. Steve Bartlett (R)
1. Patricia Schroeder (D)	<b>IOWA</b>			4. Ralph M. Hall (D)
2. Timothy E. Wirth (D)	District			5. John Bryant (D)
3. Michael L. Strang (R)	1. Jim Leach (R)	<b>MISSOURI</b>	<b>NORTH DAKOTA</b>	6. John Barton (R)
4. Hank Brown (R)	2. Tom Tauke (R)	District	District	7. Bill Archer (R)
5. Ken Kramer (R)	3. Cooper Evans (R)	1. William Clay (D)	AL Byron L. Dorgan (D)	8. Jack Fields (R)
6. Daniel L. Schaefer (R)	4. Neal Smith (D)	2. Robert A. Young (D)		9. Jack Brooks (D)
	5. Jim Ross Lightfoot (R)	3. Richard A. Gephardt (D)	<b>OHIO</b>	10. J.J. Pickle (D)
	6. Berkley Bedell (D)	4. Ike Skelton (D)	District	11. Marvin Leath (D)
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>		5. Alan Wheat (D)	1. Thomas A. Luken (D)	12. Jim Wright (D)
District	<b>KANSAS</b>	6. Thomas Coleman (R)	2. Bill Gradison (R)	13. Beau Boulter (R)
1. Barbara B. Kennelly (D)	District	7. Gene Taylor (R)	3. Tony P. Hall (D)	14. Mac Sweeney (R)
2. Sam Gendenson (D)	1. Pat Roberts (R)	8. Bill Emerson (R)	4. Mike Oxley (R)	15. E. "Kiki" de la Garza (D)
3. Bruce A. Morrison (D)	2. Jim Slattery (D)	9. Harold L. Volkmer (D)	5. Debra L. Latta (R)	16. Ron Coleman (D)
4. Stewart S. McKinnney (R)	3. Jan Meyers (R)		6. Bob McEwen (R)	17. Charles W. Stenholm (D)
5. John G. Rowland (R)	4. Dan Glickman (D)	<b>MONTANA</b>	7. Michael DeWine (R)	18. Mickey Leland (D)
6. Nancy L. Johnson (R)	5. Bob Whittaker (R)	District	8. Thomas N. Kindness (R)	19. Larry Combest (R)
		1. Pat Williams (D)	9. Marcy Kaptur (D)	20. Henry B. Gonzalez (D)
<b>DELAWARE</b>	<b>KENTUCKY</b>	2. Ron Marlenee (R)	10. Clarence E. Miller (R)	21. Tom Loeffler (R)
District	District		11. Dennis E. Eckart (D)	22. Tom DeLay (R)
AL Thomas R. Carper (D)	1. Carroll Hubbard Jr. (D)	<b>NEBRASKA</b>	12. John R. Kasich (R)	23. Albert G. Bustamante (D)
<b>FLORIDA</b>	2. William N.atcher (D)	District	13. Don J. Pease (D)	24. Martin Frost (D)
District	3. Romano L. Mazzoli (D)	1. Douglas K. Bereuter (R)	14. John F. Stabert (R)	25. Michael A. Andrews (D)
1. Earl Hutto (D)	4. Gene Snyder (R)	2. Hal Daou (R)	15. Chalmers P. Wylie (R)	26. Richard Armer (R)
2. Don Fuqua (D)	5. Harold Rogers (R)	3. Virginia Smith (R)	16. Ralph Regula (R)	27. Solomon P. Ortiz (D)
3. Charles E. Bennett (D)	6. Larry J. Hopkins (R)	<b>NEVADA</b>	17. James A. Trafalant Jr. (D)	
4. Bill Chappell Jr. (D)	7. Carl C. "Chris" Perkins (D)	District	18. Douglas Applegate (D)	
5. Bill McCollum (R)		1. Harry Reid (D)	19. Edward F. Feighan (D)	<b>UTAH</b>
6. Buddy MacKay (D)	<b>LOUISIANA</b>	2. Barbara F. Vucanovich (R)	20. Mary Rose Oaker (D)	District
7. Sam Gibson (D)	District	<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>	21. Louis Stokes (D)	1. James V. Hansen (R)
8. C.W. Bill Young (R)	1. Bob Livingston (R)	District		2. David S. Monson (R)
9. Michael Bilirakis (R)	2. Lindy (Mrs. Hale) Boggs (D)	1. Robert C. Smith (R)	<b>OKLAHOMA</b>	3. Howard C. Nielson (R)
10. Andy Ireland (R)	3. W.J. "Billy" Tauzin (D)	2. Judd Gregg (R)	District	
11. Bill Nelson (D)	4. Buddy Roemer (D)	1. James J. Florio (D)	1. James R. Jones (D)	<b>VERMONT</b>
12. Tom Lewis (R)	5. Jerry Huckaby (D)	2. William J. Hughes (D)	2. Mike Synar (D)	District
13. Connie Mack (R)	6. Henson Moore (R)	3. James J. Howard (D)	3. Wes Watkins (D)	AL James M. Jeffords (R)
14. Daniel A. Mica (D)	7. John B. Breaux (D)	4. Christopher H. Smith (R)	4. Dave McCurdy (D)	<b>VIRGINIA</b>
15. E. Clay Shaver Jr. (R)	8. Cathy Long (D)	5. Marge Roukema (R)	5. Mickey Edwards (R)	District
16. Larry Smith (D)	<b>MAINE</b>	6. Bernard J. Dwyer (D)	6. Glenn English (D)	1. Herbert B. Bateman (R)
17. William Lehman (D)	District	7. Matthew J. Rinaldo (D)	<b>OREGON</b>	2. G. William Whitehurst (R)
18. Claude Pepper (D)	1. John R. McCannan Jr. (R)	8. Robert A. Roe (D)	District	3. Thomas J. Bliley Jr. (R)
19. Dante B. Fascell (D)	2. Olympia J. Snowe (R)	9. Robert G. Torricelli (D)	1. Les AuCoin (D)	4. Norman Sisisky (D)
<b>GEORGIA</b>	<b>MARYLAND</b>	10. Peter W. Rodino Jr. (D)	2. Robert F. Smith (R)	5. Dan Daniel (D)
District	District	11. Dean A. Gatto (R)	3. Ron Wyden (D)	6. James R. Clin (D)
1. Lindsay Thomas (D)	1. Roy Dyson (D)	12. Jim Courter (R)	4. James Weaver (D)	7. D. French Slaughter Jr. (R)
2. Charles Hatch (D)	2. Helen Delich Bentley (R)	13. H. James Saxton (R)	5. Denny Smith (R)	8. Stan Parr (R)
3. Richard Ray (D)	3. Barbara A. Mikulski (D)	14. Frank J. Guarini (D)	<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>	9. Frederick C. Boucher (D)
4. Patrick L. Swindall (R)	4. Marjorie S. Holt (R)	15. Peter W. Rodino Jr. (D)	District	10. Frank R. Wolf (R)
5. Wyche Fowler Jr. (D)	5. Steny H. Hoyer (D)	16. Bernard J. Dwyer (D)	1. Thomas M. Foglietta (D)	<b>WASHINGTON</b>
6. Newt Gingrich (R)	6. Beverly B. Byron (D)	17. Matthew J. Rinaldo (D)	2. William H. Gray III (D)	District
7. George "Buddy" Darden (D)	7. Parren J. Mitchell (R)	18. Robert A. Roe (D)	3. Robert A. Borski (D)	1. John Miller (R)
8. J. Roy Rowland (D)	8. Michael D. Barnes (R)	19. Robert G. Torricelli (D)	4. Joe Kolter (D)	2. Al Swift (D)
9. Ed Jenkins (D)	<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>	20. Peter W. Rodino Jr. (D)	5. Richard T. Schulze (R)	3. Don Bonker (D)
10. Doug Barnard Jr. (D)	District	21. John F. Guarni (D)	6. Gus Yatron (D)	4. Sid Morrison (R)
<b>HAWAII</b>	1. Silvio O. Conte (R)	22. Peter W. Rodino Jr. (D)	7. Bob Edgar (D)	5. Thomas S. Foley (D)
District	2. Edward P. Boland (D)	<b>NEW YORK</b>	8. Peter H. Kostmayer (D)	6. Thomas E. Dicks (D)
1. Cecil Heftl (D)	3. Joseph D. Early (D)	District	9. Bud Shuster (R)	7. Rod Chandler (R)
2. Daniel K. Akaka (D)	4. Barney Frank (D)	1. William Carney (R)	10. Joseph M. McCade (R)	<b>WEST VIRGINIA</b>
<b>IDAHO</b>	5. Chester G. Atkins (D)	2. Thomas J. Downey (D)	11. Paul E. Kanjorski (D)	District
District	6. Nicholas Mavroules (D)	3. Robert J. Mrazek (D)	12. John P. Murtha (D)	1. Alan B. Molohan (D)
1. Larry E. Craig (R)	7. Edward J. Markey (D)	4. Norman F. Lent (R)	13. Lawrence Coughlin (R)	2. Harley O. Staggers Jr. (D)
2. Richard Stalings (D)	8. Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. (D)	5. Raymond J. McGrath (R)	14. William J. Coyne (D)	3. Bob Wise (D)
<b>ILLINOIS</b>	9. Joe Moakley (D)	6. Joseph P. Addabbo (D)	15. Don Rittler (R)	4. Nick J. Rahall II (D)
District	10. Gerry E. Studds (D)	7. Gary L. Ackerman (D)	16. Robert S. Walker (R)	<b>WISCONSIN</b>
1. Charles A. Hayes (D)	11. Brian J. Donnelly (D)	8. James H. Scheuer (D)	17. George W. Gekas (R)	District
2. Gus Savage (D)	<b>MICHIGAN</b>	9. Thomas J. Manton (D)	18. Doug Walgren (D)	1. Les Aspin (D)
3. Marty Russo (D)	District	10. Charles E. Schumer (D)	20. Joseph M. Gaydos (D)	2. Robert W. Kastenmeier (D)
4. George M. O'Brien (R)	1. John Conyers Jr. (D)	11. Edolphus Towns (D)	21. Tom Ridge (R)	3. Steven Gunderson (R)
5. William O. Lipinski (D)	2. Carl D. Pursell (R)	12. Major R. Owens (D)	22. Austin J. Murphy (D)	4. Gerald Kleckla (D)
6. Henry J. Hyde (R)	3. Howard Wolpe (D)	13. Stephen J. Solarz (D)	23. William F. Clinger Jr. (R)	5. Jim Moody (D)
7. Cardiss Collins (D)	4. Mark D. Siljander (R)	14. Guy V. Molinari (R)	<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>	6. Thomas E. Petri (R)
8. Dan Rostenkowski (D)	5. Paul B. Henry (R)	15. Bill Green (R)	District	7. Mike Lowry (D)
9. Sidney R. Yates (D)	6. Bob Carr (D)	16. Charles B. Rangel (D)	1. Ferdinand J. St. Germain (D)	8. Toby Roth (R)
10. Frank Annunzio (D)	7. Dale E. Kilde (D)	17. Ted Weiss (D)	2. Claudine Schneider (R)	9. F. James Sensenbrenner Jr. (R)
11. Philip M. Crane (R)	8. Bob Traxler (D)	18. George A. Brown (D)	<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b>	<b>WYOMING</b>
12. Harris W. Fawell (R)	9. Guy Vander Jagt (R)	19. Mario Biaggi (D)	District	District
13. John E. Groberg (R)	10. Bill Schuette (R)	20. Joseph DiGuardi (R)	1. Thomas F. Hartnett (R)	AL Dick Cheney (R)
14. Edward R. Madigan (R)	11. John Edward Porter (R)	21. Hamilton Fish Jr. (R)	2. Floyd Spence (R)	<b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</b>
15. Lynn Martin (R)	12. David E. Bonior (D)	22. Benjamin A. Gilman (R)	3. Butler Derrick (D)	Walter E. Fauntroy (R)
16. Lane Evans (D)	13. George W. Crockett Jr. (R)	23. Samuel S. Stratton (D)	4. Carroll A. Campbell Jr. (R)	<b>AMERICAN SAMOA</b>
17. Robert H. Michel (R)	14. Dennis M. Harte (D)	24. Gerald B.H. Solomon (R)	5. John M. Spratt Jr. (D)	Delegate
18. Terry L. Bruce (D)	15. William D. Ford (D)	25. Sherwood Boehlert (R)	6. Robin Tailon (D)	Foto I.F. Sunia (D)
19. Dick Durbin (D)	16. John D. Dingell (D)	26. David O.B. Martin (R)	<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>	<b>GUAM</b>
20. Melvin Price (D)	17. Sander M. Levin (D)	27. George C. Wortley (R)	District	Delegate
21. Kenneth J. Gray (D)	18. William S. Broomfield (R)	28. Matthew F. McHugh (D)	AL Thomas A. Daschle (D)	<b>PUERTO RICO</b>
<b>INDIANA</b>	<b>MINNESOTA</b>	29. Frank Horton (R)	<b>TENNESSEE</b>	Resident Commissioner
District	District	30. Fred J. Eckert (R)	District	James Fuster (D)
1. Peter Visclosky (D)	1. Timothy J. Penny (D)	31. Jack F. Kemp (R)	1. James H. Quillen (R)	<b>VIRGIN ISLANDS</b>
2. Philip R. Sharp (D)	2. Vin Weber (R)	32. John J. LaFalce (D)	2. John J. Duncan (R)	Delegate
3. John Hiler (R)	3. Bill Frenzel (R)	33. Henry J. Nowak (D)	3. Marilyn Lloyd (D)	Ron deLuco (D)
4. Dan Coats (R)	4. Bruce F. Vento (D)	34. Stan Lundine (D)	4. Sam Cooper (D)	
5. Elwood Hillis (R)	5. Martin Olay Sabo (D)	<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b>	5. Bill Boner (D)	
	6. Gerry Sikorski (D)	District	6. Bart Gordon (D)	
	7. Arian Stangeland (R)	1. Walter B. Jones (D)	7. Don Sundquist (R)	
	8. James L. Oberstar (D)	2. Tim Valentine (D)		
		3. Charles Whitely (D)		
		4. William W. Cobey Jr. (R)		



# NECman Raises 23 Children

If you ask NECman Robert Blair of Alaska for the names of his children, he's apt to reach inside his much-traveled briefcase and come out with a typewritten list. It's not that *he* has a hard time remembering the names, but *you* might.

Blair and his wife, Donna, have 23 children—eight natural, 12 adopted and three for whom they are guardians. All but five still live in the family's sprawling 10-bedroom home in Kodiak.

"Twenty-three—I suppose that's a pretty fair average," said Blair as he pondered the past six years in which his family increased by 13 members.

The story behind the population boom in the Blair family began in 1980 near Seoul, South Korea, at the St. Vincent's Home for Amerasians.

Blair's duties as NECman take him throughout Pacific Asia where the Department of Alaska has posts in the Philippines, Guam, Marshall Islands, Taiwan, Saipan and South Korea.

"As I traveled around as a Legionnaire, I was able to get a first-hand view of the plight of Amerasian children. There's a lot of prejudice against them," Blair said, "and Donna and I felt we had to do something about it."

Blair visited St. Vincent's whenever he could and became acquainted with the Revs. Alfred Keane and Benedict Zweber, Maryknoll Catholic priests who run the orphanage. Before long the Blairs were talking about additions to the family.

The Blairs were no strangers to a houseful of children. They have five as a result of their marriage: Kathy, 22, Anthony, 21, Darrell, 19, Raeann, 15, and John, 14. Blair, whose first wife died in 1959, has three children from that marriage: James, 31, Robin, 29, and Doug, 28.

Adoption was no unfamiliar process, either. Two Alaskans, Karen, 17, and Allen, 14, joined the family in 1969 and 1975, respectively. Then came the 1980s and the population explosion, thanks to St. Vincent's:

- 1980—Danny (Joon Ho Kim), 15, arrived under sponsorship (guardianship). He currently attends Oregon State University on a student visa. Lex (Hyung Tae Lee), 15, arrived two days

before Christmas and was later adopted.

- 1981—Heidi (Mee Kyung Kwon), 15, and her brother, Joe (Hyuk Min Kwon), 15, set foot on Alaskan soil during the summer, as did Norman (Allen Kim Bat), 16. Robert (Bobby Kim), 18, arrived two weeks before Christmas.

- 1982—Richard (Richard Gopal), 10, a native of India, was welcomed into the family.

- 1983—Sam (Jung Ho Choi), 16, arrived shortly after New Year's Day.

- 1984—David (Jung Sung Kim), 21, and Dwayne (Won Suk Jang), 19, were added to the family under sponsorship. Steven (Seung Ho Baik), 16, whose adoption is pending, came to the Blairs in August.

- 1985—Robert Michael (Jooh Ho Starr), 10, and Sharon, 8, became the newest arrivals from St. Vincent's. Sharon is awaiting adoption.

Blair credited the priests at St. Vincent's and attorneys who have made short work of the legal maze, with diligent action in the adoptions.

"They have really given a lot of themselves and their time to help us," he said.

Blair accepts the number of heads under his roof in shoulder-shrugging stride. "It's nothing out of the ordinary for me." Besides, he's not alone. Mrs. Blair has the enormous task of caring for the 18 children currently living in their home. "Donna is a tremendous worker. Without her, it just couldn't be done," Blair said.

When the family members of the '80s arrived, a few adjustments were in order. A commercial washer and dryer were added to handle the 30 to 40 pounds of clothes that are thrown into the hampers each day. And three more bathrooms gave family members their choice of five lines in which to stand.

Naturally, a family of that size needs coordination and cooperation. Each family member is expected to do a fair share of household chores. And when the going gets slack, Mom and Pop Blair get going, as evidenced by an in-house memorandum Blair tacked up one day for all to read:

"Dear boarders: Because of the lack of participation in housework expected of you, I am forced to begin charging room and board fees . . ." The message was the motivation.

Blair said the family has learned the importance of schedules. "In the morning when the children go to school, they get ready on their own in three shifts, the older ones helping the younger ones," he said. "They take care of themselves and they take care of each other exceptionally well."

"Taking care" are, indeed, the operative words in the Blair household. Whether a child was born into the family, or adopted from life where few opportunities exist, there has always been room to take care of one more in the house and hearts of Robert and Donna Blair. □

**BLAIR BROOD—Every day the Blairs consume two loaves of bread, two gallons of milk and use 40 pounds of clothes, which keep two washers running constantly.**





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# VETERANS ALERT

## OUTFIT REUNIONS

**Guidelines**—Outfit Reunion notices are published for Legionnaires only and must be submitted on official forms. To obtain forms, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: O.R. Form, THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Notices must be received at least seven months before reunions are scheduled and will be published only on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Army

- 1st Bn, 152nd Inf, 38th Div. (July-New Albany, IN) Alan Stephens, 2842 Wahoo Dr., New Albany, IN 47150 (812) 944-0400
- 1st Engr. Combat Bn. WWII (Sept-Tannerville, PA) Oscar Fellman, 311 Sycamore St., Weldon, NC 27890 (919) 536-2104
- 1st Signal Assn. (Aug-Columbus, OH) William Harrington, 356 E. Jeffrey Pl., Columbus, OH 43214 (614) 268-6376
- 3rd Engr. Combat Bn. WWII (Sept-Baltimore) John Malachowski, 4407 Langtry Dr., Glen Arm, MD 21057 (301) 592-6335
- 3rd Platoon, 101st Inf. Regt., 26th Div. (May-Nashville, TN) Constant Blum, 50 Allen St., Terryville, CT 06786 (203) 582-0529
- 4th Arm'd Div. Assn. (July-King of Prussia, PA) Samuel Schenker Sr., 2440 Victoria Dr., Sharon, PA 16146 (412) 981-3988
- 6th Cav. Vets Assn. (June-Chattanooga, TN) Charles Hill, Box 2011, Ft. Oglethorpe, GA 30742 (615) 236-4343
- 6th F.A. Btry. (1954-56) (Aug-Heron Lake, MN) Marvin Winkel, Rt. 2, Heron Lake, MN 56137 (507) 793-2217
- 7th Div., 155AAV BN (June-Arlington, TX) Albert Bridges, 2540 Kennesaw St., Kennesaw, GA 30144 (404) 422-1630
- 10th Arm'd Div. WWII (Midwest Chapter-Ski Troopers) (May-Cincinnati) E. Baker, 15W761 Butler Rd., Elmhurst, IL 60126 (312) 834-2966
- 12th Arm'd Div. WWII (Aug-Long Beach, CA) Robert Head, 2000 W. Roberta Ave., Fullerton, CA 92653 (714) 526-6964
- 14th Arm'd Div. Assn. (July-Hartford, CT) Andre Trew, 422 Vestal Ave., Binghamton, NY 13903
- 14th Field Hospital (June-Minneapolis) Paul Seaborg, 6441 14th Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55423 (612) 866-7066
- 16th Arm'd Div. (Sept.-S. Lake Tahoe, CA) Erik Petersen, Box 622, Lotus, CA 95651 (916) 682-6743
- 17th Inf. Assn. (Midwest) (Aug-Bellvue, NE) Harry Bjornberg, 2956 N. 54th St., Omaha, NE 68104 (402) 556-0925
- 32nd Div. (Red Arrow) (Aug-Janesville, WI) E.J. Santel, 1716 Sousa Ct., Janesville, WI 53545 (608) 752-6731
- 34th Cav. Recon. Trp., 38th Div. (June-Bowling Green, KY) Leonard Appel, Box 5, Gillette, WY 82716 (307) 682-9879
- 40th Cav. Recon. Trp. WWII (Aug-Denver) Edward Hunt, Box 68, Covington, GA 30009 (404) 796-7509
- 51st Medical Bn. WWII (June-Harrisburg, PA) Wayne Lebo, 7 Penrose St., Harrisburg, PA 17109 (717) 545-8345
- 52nd Ord. Co. (AM) (Aug-Libertyville, IL) William Foley, 349 S. Slusser St., Graylake, IL 60030 (312) 233-0668
- 54th OM Base Depot (May-St. Louis) Bill Siegrist, 4 Camillo Dr., Wayne, NJ 07470 (201) 338-3963
- 70th Inf. Div. (Aug-Pondicherry, India) Thomas, 203 S. Major, Eureka, IL 61530 (309) 467-3519
- 74th Engrs. LP Co. WWII (May-Atlanta) George Walker, 317 Loraine St., N. Bellmore, NY 11710 (516) 781-5518
- 80th Div. Vets Assn. (Aug-Baltimore) James Phillips, 424 S. Harner St., Elizabethtown, PA 17022 (717) 367-5094
- 85th Ord. Co. (HM TK) (Sept-Sacramento, CA) Alvin Gearsdorf, 3061 Portillo Ct., Cameron Park, CA 95682 (916) 677-6292
- 86th Chem. Mortar Bn. (May-Chicago) L.C.J. Deasy, 1830 30th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94122 (415) 566-2177
- 96th OM Btry. Co. (July-Wilmar, MN) Carvill Jacobson, 1101 Grace Ave., Wilmar, MN 56201 (612) 235-0939
- 101st Airborne Div. (June-Ft. Campbell, KY) CSM Robert Oates, 100 1st AVN Grp., Ft. Campbell, KY 42223 (502) 798-7242
- 101st Inf. Regt. Vets Assn. (Apr-Kerhonkson, NY) Roger Hermond, Box 3529, Springfield, MA 01101 (413) 593-9512
- 100th AAA AW Bn. WWII (June-Minneapolis) SC Margaret Baker, Rt. 1, Box 276A, Strasburg, OH 44680 (216) 878-5080
- 105th Cav. Sq. (Light Horse) (Sept-Milwaukee) Robert Dick, 2836 N. 46th St., Milwaukee, WI 53210 (414) 444-2676
- 126th 173rd F.A. Bns. (Oct-Milwaukee) Ed Kohl, 234 Ogden St., Box 188, Medford, WI 54551 (715) 748-4943
- 132nd Gen. Hospital (Oct-Rosemont, IL) John Schoepf, 907 N. 18th Ave., Melrose Park, IL 60160 (312) 344-0248
- 134th Inf., 35th Div. (Sept-Topeka, KS) James Graff, 134C, Middletown, IL 62666 (217) 445-2570

- 135th F.A. Bn., 987th Arm'd F.A. Bn. (Korea) WWII (June-Alliance, OH) Robert Steffy, 7230 Swamp St. N.E., Hartville, OH 44632 (216) 935-2737
- 142nd Gen. Hospital WWII (Sept-Oklahoma City) Richard Ritchie, 1222 Jefferson, Alexandria, MN 56308 (612) 762-5524
- 143rd Tank Bn. (June-Niantic, CT) Edward Owen, 42 Knollwood Rd., Rocky Hill, CT 06067 (203) 563-2171
- 158th RCT (Bushman), 147th F.A. (Aug-Phoenix, AZ) Chuey Tapia, 2013 E. Whittom, Phoenix, AZ 85016 (602) 956-9589
- 160th Inf., 1st AV Mortar Co., 45th Div. (Korea) (June-Kearney, NE) Paul Klirworth, Rt. 2, Box 38, Overton, NE 68663 (308) 987-2517
- 183rd Medical Bn. (Sept-Pittsburgh) Robert Osborne, 105 Woodland Rd., Syracuse, NY 13219 (315) 468-2813
- 191st Tank Bn. (July-Louisville, KY) Dennis Berger, 53 Knecht Dr., Dayton, OH 45405 (513) 278-3541
- 202nd C.A. AA (Sept-Reno, NV) Roger McCabe, 7400 Edgemere Blvd., El Paso, TX 79925 (515) 778-0632
- 218th Malaria Survey Detach. (Aug-Old Bethpage, NY) Dr. H.C. Meyer, 25 Melissa Ln., Old Bethpage, NY 11804 (516) 694-1581
- 233rd Engrs. (C) Bn. (Oct-Green Bay, WI) Edwin Newe, 601 Terraview Dr., Green Bay, WI 54301 (414) 336-0352
- 242nd F.A. Bn. (Aug-Kearney, NE) Mrs. P. L'Heureux, Box 158, Campbell, NE 68932 (402) 756-6727
- 256th Engr. (C) Bn. WWII (July-Washington) Daniel Donnelly, 8202 17th Pl., Adelphi, MD 20783 (301) 434-5412
- 257th F.A. Bn. (Sept-Lapeer, MI) Albert Walz, 254 Sterling Dr., Lapeer, MI 48446 (313) 664-2084
- 294th JASCO (June-Muskogee, OK) Bob Felts, Rt. 2, Box 66, Wagoner, OK 74467 (918) 485-4830
- 299th Engr. Combat Bn. (June-Binghamton, NY) Donald Miller, 808 Place Dr., Johnson City, NY 13790 (607) 797-8526
- 314th Inf. Regt. (July-San Jose, CA) Carlos Ogden Sr., 6013 Calle De Felice, San Jose, CA 95124 (408) 266-5368
- 351st Ord. Maint. Co. (AA) WWII (Oct-White Haven, PA) George Biliger, 370 Woodstream Way, North Wales, PA 19454 (215) 362-7988
- 358th AAA & Bn. (Sept-Amherst, NY) Arnel Peterson, 78 Princeton Ct., Cheektowaga, NY 14225 (716) 633-6504
- 421st Engr. Dump Tk. Co. (June-Topeka, KS) R.M. Boydston, 4511 S.E. 26th St., Topeka, KS 66605 (913) 379-0628
- 439th AAA Bn. WWII (Sept-Scranton, PA) Charles Anderson, 1518 Monongalia Ave., Wilmar, MD 56201 (612) 235-4665
- 513th Engr. LP Co. (Aug-Williamsburg, VA) Joseph Housh, Rt. 3, Box 63, Ruther Glen, VA 22546 (804) 448-3267
- 551st Heavy Ponton Bn. WWII (June-West Point, NY) Sam Bersato, 228 N. 5th Ave., Mt. Vernon, NY 10550 (914) 664-7128
- 567th AAA AW Bn. (Sept-Panama City Bch., FL) Robert Pruitt, 2810 Amelia Ave., Panama City, FL 32405 (904) 785-1351
- 636th Tank Destroyer Bn. (Aug-Auburn, NE) Charles Collins, Rt. 1, Auburn, NE 68305 (402) 274-5118
- 644th Tank Destroyer Bn. (Sept-Seattle) Al Berg, 610 Aloha, 4303, Seattle, WA 98109 (206) 283-4429
- 696th Engr. Pst. Dist. Co. (July-Canton, OH) William Trethewey, 5405 Cumberland Rd., Minneapolis, MN 55410 (612) 926-0531
- 722nd Engr. Depot Co. (Sept-Niagara Falls, NY) William L. Bickel, 626 80th St., Niagara Falls, NY 14304 (716) 283-9183
- 728th Railway Oper. Bn. (June-New Philadelphia, OH) Fred Stucky, 307 S. Webster Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46219 (317) 359-0215
- 751st Tank Bn. (Sept-Tulsa, OK) John Flesch, Box 1461, Grove, OK 74341 (817) 786-9337
- 757th Tank Bn. (Sept-Kansas City, MO) Claude Miltstead, 1305 Woodcrest Dr., Jackson, MS 39211 (601) 956-6690
- 759th Tank Bn., 172nd Inf. Regt., Tank Co. (June-Niantic, CT) Joseph Beninato, 22 Marshall Rd., Enfield, CT 06082 (203) 745-8298
- 760th F.A. Bn. (Aug-St. Louis) Don Allen, Box 129, Carrollton, IL 62015 (312) 942-3693
- 807th Tank Destroyer Bn. (July-New Orleans) Joseph Johnston, Rt. 2, Box 360, Farmerville, LA 71241 (318) 726-4516
- 817th Engr. AVN Bn. (Sept-W. Falmouth, MA) Joseph Beaton, 16 King St., Wilmington, MA 01887 (617) 658-2677
- 833rd Engr. AVN Bn. (Aug-St. Joseph, IL) Loren Paris, Box 21, Newforn, IN 47969 (317) 295-2043
- 893rd Tank Destroyer Bn. (Aug-Glen Burnie, MD) Harry Blair, 664 Md. Rd. 3, Gambrills, MD 21054 (301) 923-3190
- 896th AAA AW Bn., 74th C.A. AA (May-Fredricksburg, VA) Al Greene, Rt. 3, Cardinal Dr., Gatlinburg, TN 37738 (615) 436-7717
- 926th Signal Bn., 9th Tact. Air Cmd. (Aug-Boston) Richard Dwinell, 6 Gould St., Milbury, MA 01527 (617) 865-2858

- 951st F.A. Bn. WWII (Apr-Baton Rouge, LA) Thomas Hoffman, Rt. 1, Box 55C, Grosse Tete, LA 70740 (504) 648-2746
- 1881st Engr. AVN Bn. (Sept-St. Paul, MN) Norman Johnson, 1944 Kennard St., St. Paul, MN 55109 (612) 777-0158
- 3521st OM Trk. Co. (July-Denver) Leonard Smalley, Box 159, Butte, NE 68722 (402) 775-2624
- "A" Btry, 191st F.A. Bn. WWII (June-Winchester, TN) W.F. Williams, Box 215, Cowart, TN 37316 (615) 967-7568
- "A" Co., 3rd Med. Bn., 37th Div. (Sept-Vinita, OK) F. Bohannon Jr., Rt. 2, Box 70, Vinita, OK 74301 (918) 251-3529
- "B" Co., 20th Tank Bn., 20th Arm'd Div. (June-St. Louis) Lee Froneyberger, 3833 Bowen, St. Louis, MO 63116 (314) 481-4179
- "A" Co., 27th ALCB, 9th Arm'd Div. (May-Belot, KS) Alman Parson Jr., HC 61, Box 116, Hunter, KS 67452 (913) 529-2283
- "A" Co., 28th Div., 12th Inf. (July-Corry, PA) James Roden, 222 W. Smith St., Corry, PA 16407 (814) 664-7449
- "A" Co., 136th Inf., 33rd Div. (May-Ft. Wayne, IN) Lyle Powers, 202 S. 7th St., Brighton, MI 48116 (313) 229-2149
- "A" Co., 160th Inf. (July-South Bend, IN) Franklin Kempf, 6033 Hwy. 10, South Bend, IN 47907 (317) 473-5516
- "B" Btry, 52nd F.A. Bn. (Sept-Davenport, IA) Vern Thede, 2416 E. Pleasant, Davenport, IA 52803 (319) 359-0170
- "B" Co., 26th Sig. Bn. (July-Cedar Rapids, IA) M.L. Hall, Box 131, Crescent City, IL 60928 (815) 683-2641
- "B" Co., 239th Combat Engrs. (May-Little Rock, AR) H.A. Larson, Rt. 2, Box 30, Shelvin, MN 56676 (218) 785-2458
- "B" Co., 83th Tank Destroyer Bn. (Aug-Seekonk, MA) Matt Litzak, 65 Osborn St., Fall River, MA 02724 (617) 672-9064
- "C" Co., 110th Med. Bn. (July-Atlantic, IA) Edward Ludwig, 2910 S. 23rd St., Omaha, NE 68108 (402) 364-5299
- "C" Co., 746th R.O.B. (June-Memphis, TN) Elton Taylor, 322 W. Main Ave., Pine Bluff, AR 71601 (501) 536-2600
- "D" Co., 738th MP Bn. (June-Springfield, IL) Larry Buttle, Rt. 1, Glenamir, IL 62536 (217) 483-2591
- "F" Btry, 205th C.A. AA (July-Chehalis, WA) E.M. Young, Box 1063, Elmira, WA 98541 (206) 482-4738
- "F" Co., 544th ESB & SR, 4th ESB (June-Fredricksburg, VA) Ray Varley, 8 Uncas Tr., Old Saybrook, CT 06475 (203) 388-4827
- "G" Co., 19th Inf., 30th Div. (Sept-Reynoldsburg, OH) Richard Earl, Box 288, Union City, PA 16438 (814) 438-3940
- "G" Co., 155th Inf., 31st Div. WWII (Aug-Nashville, TN) Eulas Smith, 201 Glendale Cir., Aberdeen, MS 39730 (601) 369-4529
- HQ Co., 56th Signal Bn. (June-Poccano Maraca) Bernard Cook, Rt. 1, Chittanooga, NY 13037 (315) 687-7811
- HQ Co., 534th Engr. Boat Bn. (Sept-Hamilton, NY) Fred Tachet, 555 Genesee St., Oneida, NY 13421 (315) 363-3902
- "I" Co., 129th Inf., 337th Div. (June-Crystal Lake, IL) Earl Rasmussen, Rt. 2, Box 156, Alamo, TN 38001 (901) 696-4183
- "L" Co., 13th 8th Div. (Sept-Smoketown, PA) Crawford Mackley, Mt. Ver. Terr. Apt. 12, Waynesboro, PA 17809 (717) 762-4710
- All Mounted Soldiers (June-Houston, TX) Lowell Drummond, 5704 45th Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55417
- O'Reilly Gen. Hospital (Sept-Springfield, MO) Neil Wortley, c/o L.E. Cox Medical Ctr., 1423 N. Jefferson, Springfield, MO 65802 (417) 836-5199
- US Army Medical Command, Japan (USA Hosp-Camp Zama) (June-San Antonio, TX) Arch Telgren, 1023 Forest St., Brookings, SD 57006 (605) 692-6692

## Navy

- 6th Nav. Dist. Shore Patrol WWII (May-Greenville, SC) Harold Ross, 1136 Broadview Blvd., Rackenridge, PA 15014 (412) 224-2881
- 37th Spec. Bn. (Sept-Philadelphia) Harry Gates, 187 Prescott Ave., Gibbstown, NJ 08027 (609) 423-4075
- 195th NCB (Sept-Toledo, OH) Charles Steale, 6030 Reisterer Dr., Toledo, OH 43613 (419) 474-5007
- 102th NCB WWII (Sept-Denver) Wayne Linton, H-88 Christie Cir., Shawano, WI 54166 (715) 745-2389
- 15th NCB (July-E. Shroudsburg, PA) Edward Pumm, 5023 E. Naam St., Indianapolis, IN 46203 (317) 359-6996
- 136th Seabees (June-Boise, ID) Ralph Harrison, 837 Millwood Rd., Broken Arrow, OK 74011 (918) 455-8243
- 302nd NCB (July-Cleveland) Paul Rhoades, 2615 Overbrook Rd., Cuyahoga, OH 44221 (216) 928-3534
- Assn. of Torpedeers & Mines (July-St. Louis) Ronald Curtis, 901 N. Jefferson, St. Louis, MO 63106 (314) 241-2319
- Battle of Ormoc Bay, PI, WWII (Sept-Reno, NV) Gene Bickers, 128 Piney Bend, Portage, IN 45638 (219) 866-4480



**FAW-7, VPB103, 105, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114** (Sept-Salt Lake City) John Koning, 922 E. 225 North, Layton, UT 84041 (801) 544-9408

**L.C. 1-968 (Sister Ships)** (Sept-Pointed Post, NY) Joseph Savino, 806 Addison Rd., Painted Post, NY 14870 (716) 968-3600

**LCC** (June-Norfolk, VA) Bob Wilson, Box 193, Rt. 2, Stuart, VA 22050 (515) 523-1341

**LST Fittella 7 (C.G. Included)** (Sept-Newport, RI) William Aschoff, 9 Arrowway Dr., Scituate, MA 02066 (617) 545-0795

**Navy 157 (Palermo, Sicily)** (June-Springfield, IL) William Harrison, 2285 N. Water St., Decatur, IL 62526 (217) 877-1107

**VPML-8/VP-8** (Sept-Providence, RI) D.P. Stowe, 2505 Hartford Ave., Johnston, RI 02919 (401) 934-1646

**Spec. Augmented Hosp. Unit 3** (Oct-Philadelphia) Joseph Nespoli, 225 Welsh Dr., Springfield, PA 19064 (215) 544-4526

**VPB-26** (May-Pensacola, FL) W.L. Williams, Rt. 11, Box 287, Milton, FL 32570 (904) 623-5740

**VS-55 WWII** (Sept-Colorado Springs, CO) R.W. Croman, 5104 Elberta Ave., Canon, OH 44709 (216) 494-0673

**USS Altu CVE-102** (Sept-Dayton, OH) Kermit Stephens, Rt. 3, Box 268C, Minerva, GA 30257 (404) 358-2224

**USS Benner DD-807** (July-Bozeman, MT) Harold Detenue, HC58, Box 59, Barntown, MT 59212 (406) 769-2291

**USS Bernadot DD-153** (May-Springfield, IL) E.T. Budberg Jr., 325 S. Hazel Dell Rd., Springfield, IL 62707 (217) 529-1167

**USS Blackhawk G-9** (Assigned Destroyer Div.) (May-Las Vegas, NV) G.H. Mason, 5112 21st St. N.E., Puyallup, WA 98372 (206) 863-8666

**USS Butler DD-636 DMS-29** (Oct-Cleveland, TN) Bill Ewing, Box 3782, Cleveland, TN 37311 (615) 476-3805

**USS Dashiell DD-659** (July-Pittsfield, WI) William Steffey, Rt. 1, Box 318, Homer, IL 61849 (217) 582-2224

**USS Dobbin (Ships alongside on Dec. 7)** (Sept-Nashville, TN) Clarence Rudd, 506 N.E. Franklin, Bend, OR 97701 (503) 389-4919

**USS Feland APA-11** (Sept-Columbus, OH) Harold Crossman, 3251 N. Wagoner Rd., Blacklick, OH 43004 (614) 855-1982

**USS Fremont APA-44** (Sept-Summit, NJ) Joseph Krawiec, 125 Cloverdale Ave., Paramus, NJ 07652 (201) 843-2114

**USS Frost DE-144** (Aug-Philadelphia) Ernest Zimany, 76 Chestnut Ln., Hollister, CA 95023 (408) 637-3019

**USS Hydrys AKA-28** (June-Gallatin, TN) Don Stier, 520 Dayton, FL Wayne, IL 46807 (219) 745-7478

**USS Ingersoll DD-652** (Aug-Providence, RI) Richard Murphy, 10215 Ranger Rd., Fairfax, VA 22030

**USS Knapp DD-653** (July-Pittsburgh) Robert Blewitt, 118 Buena Vista, New Castle, PA 16105 (412) 654-3320

**USS LCC (Normandy Invasion)** (June-Illinois) James Hewitt, Rt. 9, Box 363, Lancaster, SC 29720 (803) 285-2641

**USS Lesuth AK-125** (Oct-Topeka, KS) T.W. Stone, 6601 S.W. Fairdale, Topeka, KS 66619 (913) 862-0938

**USS LST 292** (Oct-Orlando, FL) L.W. Brown, Box 26, Starkville, MS 39759

**USS LST 345** (Apr-Durham, NC) Robert White Sr., Rt. 2, Box 12, Siler City, NC 27341 (919) 742-2476

**USS LST 556** (May-Ocean City, MD) Archie Kessell, 115 17th St., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 (714) 566-4694

**USS LST 688 WWII** (July-Washington, PA) Milford Chambers, 33 N. Main St., Washington, PA 15301 (412) 225-7450

**USS Manila Bay CVE-61** (July-Dayton, OH) Morris Krueckerberg, Rt. 2, Box 384, Decatur, IN 46733 (219) 547-4382

**USS McGowan DD-678** (July-Cincinnati) Don Rogers, 30 Hurd St., Lynn, MA 01905 (617) 595-1137

**USS Morris DD-417** (Oct-Peoria, IL) Jack Henninger, Box 357, 815 N. 1st Ave., Canton, IL 61820 (309) 647-1492

**USS PC 477** (Sept-Corning, NY) Al Oberg, 5701 Jennings Rd., Horseheads, NY 14845 (607) 739-5805

**USS PCS 1389 WWII** (May-Philadelphia) Lenny Tampone, 99 E. 7th St., Deer Park, NY 11729 (516) 667-6184

**USS Philadelphia CL-41** (Sept-Denver) F.J. Amorson, 93 Duntz St., Somerset, NJ 08873 (201) 545-1475

**USS Pittsburgh CA-72** (May-Las Vegas, NV) Lee Warren, 500 Southgate Ave., Daly City, CA 94015 (415) 756-8445

**USS Rinehart DE-196** (June-Pittsburgh) Franklin Hixson, Rt. 1, Box 50, Hopwood, PA 15445 (412) 439-8315

**USS Robinson DD-562** (Sept-Baltimore) Don Fahlberg, 3661 41st Apt. 12, Moline, IL 61201 (309) 757-2781

**USS Richard M. Rowell DE-403** (Sept-Bloomington, MN) Victor Pittman, Rt. 1, Box 12L, Almena, WI 54805 (715) 357-6071

**USS Russell DD-414** (Sept-San Diego) Walter Singletary, 4544 62nd St., San Diego, CA 92115 (619) 582-1337

**USS Salute** (June-St. Louis) James Hughes, 47 N. Shore Dr., Syracuse, IN 45667 (219) 457-3046

**USS William Seiverling DE-441** (July-Newport, RI) Clifford Myers, 53 Old Fort Rd., Newport, RI 02840 (401) 847-8972

Continued on page 60

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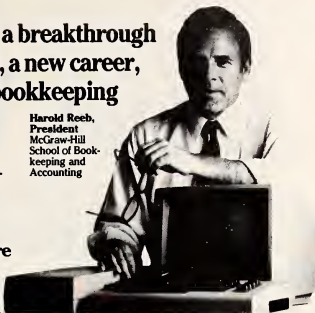
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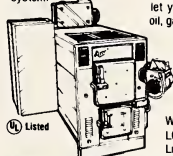
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# LEGION YOUTH PROGRAMS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**By Eugene V. Lindquist**

**L**IKE generations before them, today's youth live in a world of tough choices, surrounded each day by unique pressures and dangers. Headlines scream the tragedies of the growing teen suicide rate and alcohol-related carnage on the nation's highways with young people. Children vanish without a trace and the anti-hero has become the new breed of role model.

For the past six decades, The American Legion has monitored the growing negative influences on children and, correspondingly, promoted programs to encourage the wholesome development of youth. The Legion's concern for children was formally recognized by a special trust fund established in 1925 to provide care to children of deceased or disabled American Legion veterans. Soon thereafter, the National Commission on Children and Youth was created and some of its children and youth programs have made all the difference to millions of America's young people.

Legion founders recognized early the need to supply care and direction to the nation's youth. The guiding principle of any youth-related program is the importance of family. The Legion pays special homage to "the family" during National Family Week, which coincides with Thanksgiving week, and lends support to organizations year-round that focus on the needs of young people.

The Legion's involvement in youth programs has undergone change and expansion during the years. In earlier days, attention was on the immediate plight of children of disabled veterans.

*Eugene V. Lindquist is chairman of The American Legion's Children and Youth Commission.*

*For the past 60 years, posts large and small have sponsored programs that help our youngsters cope with the stress and responsibilities of growing up.*

The focus shifted in the 1950s to programs designed to prevent negative societal trends and influences.

This past year, our volunteers used more than \$24 million to ensure that children could have a better chance to realize their potential.

The C&Y Commission usually identifies and tackles areas of specific concern for three-year periods. The "big three" for 1986 are teen suicide prevention, missing children and drug/alcohol abuse. The facts speak for themselves:

- One teen-ager an hour commits suicide in America, and 40 more attempt it. Suicide is the third largest cause of death of teen-agers, behind accidents and homicide.
- About 1.5 million children are reported missing every year. While the majority of those incidents have happy endings, many do not. An estimated 150,000 children are abducted—a third by strangers. Law enforcement agencies report that 10 percent of abducted children are found alive; an equal percentage are found dead. The remaining 80 percent are never heard from again.
- Illegal drugs and alcohol abuse have long found a stronghold in schools and homes around the nation. Alcohol abuse by our young people is perhaps the largest form of drug abuse. Many of our youths caught up in the use of drugs and

alcohol often end up as suicide statistics or on the long rolls of missing children.

The Legion offers alternative programs designed to pull youths away from potential drowning pools of sorrow and despair. Advocating "A Square Deal For Every Child," many of the Legion's 16,000 posts have formed their own C&Y committees to foster youth development within their communities. Among the activities are Boy Scouts, Halloween Safety, Special Olympics and American Legion Baseball. Many posts sponsor candidates for Boys and Girls States—programs that fall under the direction of the National Commission on Americanism.

The Legion has been extremely active in supporting legislation that deals with problems faced by youths. For example, the Legion was an ardent supporter of the Missing Children's Act signed into law by President Reagan in 1982. Part of the act requires the FBI to set aside space in its computer files for information on missing children. The fight continues, however, because most states have no requirements that local police authorities provide information on missing children to the FBI.

**M**AKING the public aware of youth problems is another important goal of the Legion, as we seek to inform our members and the general public about these obstacles. More important, we try to find solutions to the problems.

I and a number of other Legionnaires attended a seminar last year that graphically depicted the widespread abuse of children. I felt sick to think that children of this nation are being used and mistreated in some of the most unimaginable manners. They're the victims of sex and drug abuse, cults, prostitution and kidnapping. We talk about and criticize foreign countries for killing Americans and yet, in our own backyard, there are kids being killed or





**BENEFITING YOUTH**—Programs such as *Boy's Nation* and the *Special Olympics* keep the Legion in the forefront of national organizations committed to the wholesome development of youth.

abused. Seminars like the one I attended are helpful in educating the public.

And the Legion has not forgotten its obligation to help children from Legion veteran families. Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA), spawned shortly after the Legion formed, is funded through the Child Welfare Foundation and provides short-term aid to families to help keep children in a stable home environment.

We are proud of the Child Welfare Foundation. Established in 1955 as the funding source for children and youth programs, it promotes and provides grants to youth-related organizations.

Many other Legion programs have contributed to the development of youth, especially in fostering good attitudes toward government and civic responsibilities. Boys State, Girls State and

Boys Nation allow high school students to learn the dynamics of how our government works. For years, the Legion's National High School Oratorical Contest has given young men and women the opportunity to express themselves on patriotism and the responsibilities of a free society. About 10,000 students annually participate in this contest.

**S**INCE 1939, the Legion and Auxiliary have joined together each April to observe Children and Youth Month. Many posts are involved in projects for youths within their communities.

One of the privileges of having served as chairman of the Children and Youth Commission is the opportunity to observe the fine projects developed by departments—projects such as Ponca City Boys Home in Oklahoma and Minnesota's "Legionville," where about 2,000 youths annually receive training in safety procedures.

Perhaps one of my most precious memories is the 1983 Special Olympics at Baton Rouge, La., where 4,500 handicapped people competed before 65,000 spectators. When you see that kind of enthusiasm and courage the kids have, it's nice to know you've contributed in some way.

Armchair critics and philosophers since Socrates have lamented and wrongly predicted that the younger generation will spell doom for their societies. We don't see it that way.

If opportunities and positive alternatives are made available to our youth, most will respond favorably. They are the hope and future of this country, and it is our obligation to prepare them for the tasks ahead. □

## PROGRAMS THAT HELP

**F**OLLOWING are some key Legion programs dedicated to the wholesome development of youth:

**Temporary Financial Assistance**—Provides short-term funds to families for clothing, food, utilities and shelter.

**Special Olympics**—Many Legionnaires are involved in helping with the state and local levels of competition and national games.

**Children and Youth Month**—Each April, the Legion fosters programs to celebrate and recognize the importance of our nation's youth.

**National Family Week**—Celebrated Nov. 24-30 throughout the Legion, the observance recognizes the importance of the family.

**Boys and Girls States**—Legion posts and Auxiliary units sponsor high school students to participate in mock governments in their respective states. Many participants go on to Boys and Girls Nations.

**National High School Oratorical Contest**—Participants speak out for America on the importance of good citizenship and government.

**American Legion Baseball**—Local, state and national competition for those participating in America's favorite pastime. Many have found the program to be an excellent springboard into professional baseball. More important, thousands of boys have earned college baseball scholarships.

**Need a Lift? Scholarship Information**—Acts as a clearinghouse to families seeking information on scholarships, grants and awards for higher education.

**Scouting**—Both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts receive local and national support for their programs. Some 60,000 boys and girls are active in more than 2,500 Explorer posts, Scout troops and Cub packs sponsored by The American Legion.

**Fingerprinting**—Posts work with local law enforcement agencies to help identify missing children. Parents are encouraged to have their children fingerprinted early.

**Child Welfare Foundation**—Promotes and makes grants to non-profit organizations that benefit the health and welfare of youth. □



# In Pursuit of the American Dream

**I**n a little town in Oklahoma lives a man who has stocked a five-acre lake with happy catfish. Yes, *happy*. For every time he goes down to the lake and spreads out cottonseed and bread on the lake's surface, the fish race like mad to join in the meal. But not just anyone gets to fish these happy critters—only wounded World War I veterans.

In Philadelphia, a heavy-set policeman stationed at a children's hospital got heartsick watching the suffering children and decided to do something . . . not about their medical problems, but about their broken dreams. He began to raise money from anyone who would hear him out—and sent one child off to see real redwood trees, another to splash in the ocean, another to Disneyland to kiss Minnie Mouse. The foundation he eventually established now has chapters in 14 cities, and has helped 3,000 children realize their tall dreams.

In St. Paul, Minn., the head of a motel chain found a formula for building motel units cheaper than anyone else: His construction crew consists of his 10 children. Each summer they "race the wind" to complete new projects—none getting any pay other than his normal room-and-board, but each getting a sweat-equity share of the motel business. This is how one father teaches his children the value of working for what they get, and in the process has built a family that sticks together.

Such are the people you meet in the book by NBC television reporter Bob Dotson, *In Pursuit of the American Dream* (published by Atheneum, New York, and copyrighted by Night Work Corp.). Yet, as the examples show, Dotson's pursuit does not chronicle the usual chase after money or love or fame, but reports on ordinary people and how they strive "to build, discover, create, achieve, survive and grow."

Much has been written about the American dream of building a mighty

nation out of a raw wilderness—and all too little about how Americans still carry that dream in their bones and base their unusual lives on it. This is Dotson's focus, as he says:

"My job is to find the extraordinary in ordinary lives; to look for the common threads that link a lonely sheepherder in Nevada to a group of young poets on a forgotten island off the coast of Georgia. I work the neglected corners of our cities. The small towns. The dirt roads.

***"Americans still carry that dream in their bones and base their unusual lives on it."***

I look for these stories because I believe they tell us something of the larger issues that we all face day by day."

Since these people-vignettes spring largely from TV coverage, they are more visual than emotional or analytical. Even so, there's a straight-forward handling that avoids stickiness and lets people's accomplishments speak for themselves. Above all, as the author states, "we can see a bit of ourselves in these reports . . ."

Can you see yourself in this one? Over 40 years ago a surveyor from Nebraska was charting some land along the Rio Grande. He stopped for lunch and dozed off. When he awoke he found people gathered around eating his food scraps. That bothered him so deeply that he sold his land and bought food and medicine for poor people. And when that was gone, he went around begging for more.

On the gloomy side of the nation's capital, a former prize-fighter welded a gang of ghetto kids into an all-star football team. Working at it daily, he has

been giving them shelter in his own home, scrounging for clothes, providing meals and helping his charges survive the blandishments of crime and drugs. The man's message is simple:

"The world is a beautiful place. Some of the people in it are not. You may not be able to change what is bad but you can get what you want by working. You don't have to invest your life in a prison."

It was similar feelings that moved a Harlem woman to take in children born out of a growing American nightmare—drug addiction. Now bone-thin, elderly but unstooped, she has worked at a mission since she was 14, savings hundreds. Her formula? "There is no magic to what she does, just love . . ."

Among other everyday heroes and heroines you meet is a psychiatric aide in a hospital who tired of watching mental cases being turned out into the streets, helpless to care for themselves. He followed them, and his office has become the steam vents and alleys where they live, as he fights to get them food and clothing to face the elements. He knows he cannot make them well, but he can touch their lives and bring them human warmth . . .

In a different vein, there's the Ozark native who returned home after a successful singing career and began to write down the old melodies his fellow hill people had created over the years, and which were fast fading from memory. The result is his collection of some 800 songs, and a great revival of old-time music in the area.

Another man who went home again was a noted photographer who, in an interview in Cumberland Gap, Tenn., offered advice for almost anyone:

"If you want to go after the wonderment of life, take your camera and go home. It's not the people in China or on the other side of the world. The most wonderful people in the world are right in your own backyard."

*Reviewed by James N. Sites* □



One step away  
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I might drive  
the highways,  
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truckload of  
dynamite.

But when I wheel  
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check or money order for the  
correct premium amount.

- Since 1958, more than \$55 million benefit dollars, see check, have been paid out.
- Once you're accepted, stay an American Legion member and pay your annual premium, your cover-  
age won't be cancelled.
- Benefits for deaths in 1986 include a 20% increase for all ages of Legionnaires.

### ***Exclusions.***

No benefit is payable for death as  
a result of war or an act of war, if  
death occurs while serving, or  
within six months after termination  
of service, in the military, naval  
or air force of any country or  
combination of countries.



***You play it safe, turn page, complete  
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**ONLY RESIDENTS OF NEW YORK & PUERTO RICO** may use this enrollment card. Send for special enrollment if you reside elsewhere. Enrollments and benefits vary slightly in some areas. Make check or money order payable to The American Legion Life Insurance Plan.

## **BENEFITS**—Yearly Renewable Reducing Term Insurance (Policy Form G-17601) Benefits determined by age at death and include 20% SPECIAL INCREASE for deaths occurring during 1986. Maximum coverage limited to 12 units.

Age at Death	12 Units \$288 per yr.	11 Units \$264 per yr.	10 Units \$240 per yr.	8 Units \$192 per yr.	6 Units \$144 per yr.	5 Units \$120 per yr.	4 Units \$96 per yr.	3 Units \$72 per yr.	2 Units \$48 per yr.	1 Unit \$24 per yr.
Through age 29	\$144,000	\$132,000	\$120,000	\$96,000	\$72,000	\$60,000	\$48,000	\$36,000	\$24,000	\$12,000
30-34	115,200	105,600	96,000	76,800	57,600	48,000	38,400	28,800	19,200	9,600
35-44	64,800	59,400	54,000	43,200	32,400	27,000	21,600	16,200	10,800	5,400
45-54	31,680	29,040	26,400	21,120	15,840	13,200	10,560	7,920	5,280	2,640
55-59	17,280	15,840	14,400	11,520	8,640	7,200	5,760	4,320	2,880	1,440
60-64	11,520	10,560	9,600	7,680	5,760	4,800	3,840	2,880	1,920	960
65-69	7,200	6,600	6,000	4,800	3,600	3,000	2,400	1,800	1,200	600
70-74*	4,752	4,356	3,960	3,168	2,376	1,980	1,584	1,188	792	396
75*-Over	3,600	3,300	3,000	2,400	1,800	1,500	1,200	900	600	300
<b>Prorated Premium†</b>	<b>\$216</b>	<b>\$198</b>	<b>\$180</b>	<b>\$144</b>	<b>\$108</b>	<b>\$90</b>	<b>\$72</b>	<b>\$54</b>	<b>\$36</b>	<b>\$18</b>

\*No persons age 70 or over (including those desiring additional coverage) will be accepted for new insurance.  
9 and 7 units also available. Please write for details.

**†PRORATED PREMIUM TO SEND WITH YOUR APPLICATION.** The premiums shown above are for the balance of 1986 for approved applications effective Apr. 1, 1986. Premiums for applications effective May 1 or later are proportionately less, by \$2 PER UNIT PER MONTH, and any overpayments will be refunded. Premiums accompanying non-approved applications will be refunded in full.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** Your insurance becomes effective on the first day of the month coinciding with or next following the date your enrollment card is received, subject to Insurance Company's approval. Insurance may be maintained in force by payment of premiums when due. Members remain insured while the Master Group Policy continues in force provided contributions are made when due and membership in The American Legion is maintained.

### **NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION**

Information regarding your insurability will be treated as confidential except that The United States Life Insurance Co. in the City of New York may make a brief report to the Medical Information Bureau (M.I.B.), a non-profit membership organization of life insurance companies which operates an information exchange on behalf of its members. Upon request by another member insurance company to which you have applied for life or health insurance, or to which a claim is submitted, the M.I.B. will supply such company with the information it may have in its files.

United States Life may also release information in its file to its reinsurers and to other life insurance companies to which you may apply for life or health insurance, or to which a claim is submitted.

Upon receipt of a request from you, the M.I.B. will arrange disclosure of any information it may have in your file. Medical information will only be disclosed to your attending physician. If you question the accuracy of information in the Bureau's file you may seek correction in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Federal Fair Credit Reporting Act. The address of the Bureau's information office is P.O. Box 105, Essex Station, Boston, Mass. 02112; Phone (617) 426-3660.

**INCONTESTABILITY** Your coverage shall be incontestable after it has been in force during your lifetime for two years from its effective date.

**MAIL TO:** The American Legion Life Insurance Plan  
P.O. Box 5609 • Chicago, IL 60680

Plan Insured by  
The United States Life Insurance Company in the City of New York

**Enrollment Subject to Underwriter's Approval**

### **ENROLLMENT CARD FOR YEARLY RENEWABLE TERM LIFE INSURANCE FOR MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle Mo. Day Year  
Permanent Residence \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip  
Name of Beneficiary \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_  
Example: Print "Helen Louise Jones." Not "Mrs. H. L. Jones"  
Membership Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ Post No. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

I apply for the number of units indicated: ☐

The following representations shall form a basis for the Insurance Company's approval or rejection of this enrollment: Answer all questions.

1. Present occupation? \_\_\_\_\_ Are you now actively working?  
Yes ☐ No ☐ If no, give reason \_\_\_\_\_
2. Have you been confined in a hospital within the last year? No ☐ Yes ☐ If yes, give date, length of stay and cause \_\_\_\_\_
3. During the last five years, have you had heart disease, circulatory disease, kidney disease, liver disease, lung disease, diabetes, or cancer, or have you had or received treatment or medication for high blood pressure or alcoholism? No ☐ Yes ☐ If yes, give details \_\_\_\_\_

I represent that to the best of my knowledge and belief, all statements and answers recorded on this enrollment card are true and complete. I agree that this enrollment card shall be a part of any insurance granted upon it under the policy. I authorize any physician or other person who has attended or examined me, or who may attend or examine me, to disclose or to testify to any knowledge thus acquired.

Dated \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_ Signature of \_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant  
The American Legion offers this insurance through The United States Life Insurance Company in the City of New York,  
Home Office, New York, New York  
(N.Y.S.P.R.) 1386

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AUTHORIZATION**

I have received and read the Notice of Disclosure of Information at left. Further, I authorize any physician, medical practitioner, hospital, clinic, or other medical or medically related facility, insurance company, the Medical Information Bureau or other organization, institution or person having any records or knowledge of me or of my health to give The United States Life Insurance Company in the City of New York any such information.

A photographic copy of this authorization shall be as valid as the original.

Dated \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_ Signature of \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ I apply for additional Legion Life Insurance. My present certificate number is \_\_\_\_\_



Remembering doughboys and their heroic deeds through a commemorative stamp...saluting the educators of New York...role models for all Legionnaires...reuniting runaways and missing children with their families...and POW/MIAs.

**M**embers of Post 343, Seven Springs, Fla., believe they have licked the problem of promoting World War I veterans, many of whom went on to lay the foundation for The American Legion.



The post is involved in philately, better known as stamp collecting, and last year helped get a commemorative stamp approved by postal officials. The stamp honors America's doughboys and those who formed the Legion. The cover was designed by William T. Crick, former commander of Post 343.

**L**egionnaires know a good thing when they see it. Post 1040, Delmar, N.Y., presented plaques to schools in



that area in recognition of American Education Week in November.

The plaques were inscribed with a passage from Emma Lazarus' poem for the Statue of Liberty: "I lift my lamp before the golden door."

**"T**hey truly are models for all Legionnaires to follow. They're dedicated hard workers who ask nothing for themselves in return, except to keep The American Legion dream alive and to help our servicemen."

With those words, Ralph Decker, adjutant of Post 68, Pittsfield, Mass., paid tribute to Theodore Handerek, Claude Rawling and Albert Cheevers, who all have held several offices during their many years of membership and association with the post. The trio currently serve on the post's board of directors.

**T**railways Bus System has been taking people home for years over America's network of highways and byways. But the company went the extra mile in 1985 when it launched a program that provides a means to return missing children to their homes.

The Eighth District, Department of Minnesota American Legion, has a special interest in the plight of missing children, and decided not to let Trailways' efforts go unnoticed. District officials through the help of Legionnaires in Dallas, Texas, where Trailways has its headquarters, presented the company with a plaque for its "Operation Home Free" program.

Trailways returned more than 4,000 children to their families last year.



**T**heir fates are unknown, but the POW/MIAs in Vietnam have not been forgotten.

Tom Kaiser, chairman of the POW/MIA Committee, Department of New York, and Post 246, Baldwin, N.Y., were among veterans groups that converged



on the nation's Capitol late last year to show their support for those unaccounted for in South-east Asia.

Legionnaires and other veterans gathered at the Vietnam War Memorial and marched to Lafayette Park adjacent to the White House. Kaiser and other speakers addressed the rally and special ceremonies were conducted.

## LEGIONNAIRE OF THE MONTH



John Weinberger

**A**SK about John Weinberger at Post 854, Evergreen Park, Ill., and you'll hear words such as "Mr. Legion himself" and "an inspiration." At the department adjutant's office, you'll hear he is "the membership-getter of Evergreen."

"Anything that comes up, he's ready to get on it," said Post Cmdr. Ken Pryor. "He is one of the most outstanding Legionnaires I've known."

Weinberger, a past post commander, is a delegate to the Illinois first division and the eighth district. He attends all of the meetings, often providing transportation for others as well. "I can't remember a time when he has missed a post or executive committee meeting," said Pryor.

At post meetings, he oversees donations and their disbursement to charities. He runs the bingo games on Sunday evenings, usually calling the games from a rocking chair, one of the few concessions he makes to the arthritis that is crippling his body and causes him constant pain.

Although working full time as a truck mechanic, he finds time to raise funds for a POW/MIA memorial in Springfield, Ill., and visit the Lakeside VA Hospital to conduct bingo games and talk with patients. Evenings and weekends, he travels through the Chicago suburbs, urging members to renew their memberships, or explaining the value of the Legion to potential members.

Post members praise Weinberger's dedication and leadership, which serve as an inspiration to other Legionnaires.



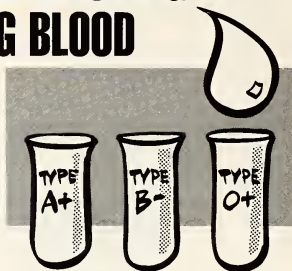
## NO DANGER OF CONTRACTING AIDS BY DONATING BLOOD

**A**LTHOUGH medical science says it's impossible to get AIDS by donating blood, many people believe differently. Consequently, blood donations are down nationwide.

According to the American Association of Blood Banks, 17 of 38 centers recently surveyed reported that donations had decreased by up to 10 percent. The fear of AIDS was cited as the main reason why healthy blood donors are staying away.

Some 15,000 cases of AIDS have been reported since record keeping on the disease began four years ago. In that time, there have been 236 cases of AIDS related to blood transfusions. *None of the AIDS cases occurred as a result of donating either blood or plasma. There is no evidence that donating blood will infect the donor with AIDS.*

Before giving blood, donors' arms are thoroughly disinfected with antiseptic solutions such as iodine and alcohol. Needles and plastic tubes used to collect blood are sterile and used only once. After the blood is drawn, needles and tubes are carefully disposed of so they will never be used again. Plastic bags used to store the blood remain in use until the blood is transfused to a patient,



then disposed. Nurses and other medical persons who draw the blood are trained to ensure safe and sterile donating processes and are supervised by a medical doctor specially trained in blood bank procedures.

The nation's blood supply is considered to be as safe as ever. Since July 1, 1985, blood and plasma donated in the United States have been tested for the antibody to the AIDS virus. In addition, members of social or ethnic groups considered high risks for AIDS infection have been asked not to donate blood, and there is substantial evidence that they are cooperating. Since human blood can only be stored in a blood center or hospital bank for 42 days, the blood supply has been free of AIDS since about Aug. 12, 1985.

Members of the Legion and Auxiliary are urged to donate blood as often as possible. If there is a blood program at a local Legion post, as many members as possible should participate. If no program exists, the Legion's National Security and Foreign Relations Division has a brochure outlining how to put together such a program. The brochure may be obtained by writing: National Security-Foreign Relations Division, The American Legion, 1608 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

## Legion Receives \$2,500 Donation

**T**HE American Legion is one of six U.S. organizations that received a \$2,500 donation from the Miller Brewing Company's Meister Brau division as part of its national salute to the charitable works performed by America's fraternal and service organizations.

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation was designated the recipient charity of the donation, presented at The American Legion's largest post in membership, Post 3 in Lincoln, Neb. Ray Griffin, chairman of the Nebraska Department's welfare committee, and Bob Eberly, Post 3 commander, accepted the check on behalf of the Legion.

"All too often, the many hours of volunteer work and the millions of dollars raised for charities by organizations such as The American Legion are not fully appreciated by the public," said Kevin Foley, vice president of Meister Brau.

## LEGIIONNAIRES SEEK HELP FOR VICTIMS OF THE MEXICO CITY EARTHQUAKE

**I**T'S been nearly six months since a massive earthquake leveled Mexico City, but relief efforts continue and financial assistance is needed to help the city rebuild, according to Frank Nolan, adjutant of the Department of Mexico.

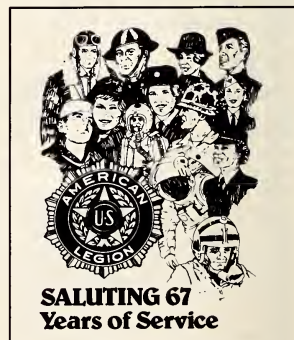
The quake struck Sept. 19, killing an estimated 5,000 people, injuring thousands and leaving many more homeless. "We need financial assistance to reconstruct our houses, schools and hospitals," Nolan said.

Although his department is not equipped to handle a major relief campaign, Nolan said that other departments, Legionnaires and Auxiliary members could "send donations through

us to either NAVINSA (Mexican Development Bank) or the American Chamber of Commerce, which has established a special committee to handle such matters."

No Legionnaires of Post 2, Mexico City, were injured in the quake, Nolan said, but some sustained damage to their homes. "We are proud of our Legionnaires and Auxiliary members who have contributed to relief and reconstruction efforts to aid our neighbors through donations of money, food, clothing and—in the tradition of our great organization—their time in volunteer work."

Donations should be mailed to Frank Nolan, Tennessee 32, Altos, Col. Naples, 03810 Mexico, D.F., Mexico.





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Oyster Calcium	Oceal <sup>®</sup>	1.49	5.95
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SATISFACTION GUARANTEED: Return unused items for full refund.			
MASTER CARD AND VISA accepted on orders over \$10.00. Please print card number and expiration date on separate enclosed or paper. We reserve the right to limit quantities.			
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PRINT NAME		CITY	
ADDRESS		STATE	
		ZIP	



*Stevens-Connor Post 1330, N.Y.*

## A Hard-working Friend of Veterans

**L**EGIONNAIRES of Stevens-Connor Post 1330 of Rush, N.Y., have learned first-hand that the most direct route to increased membership is through effective veterans' programs.

The post for years has been recognized for its outstanding Boy Scout program, which it sponsors in the 4,000-resident suburb of Rochester. But in 1984, an opportunity arose to serve as the veterans advocate: The New York State Legislature authorized local governments to give full or partial exemption of property taxes to veterans and their widows.

The post went to work immediately. Legionnaires canvassed the town by telephone, ensuring that eligible veterans knew about the exemption and had the proper application forms. When the Rush Town Board and Monroe County officials scheduled meetings to discuss the exemption, the post sent representatives to encourage the boards to grant 100-percent exemptions. The town board granted exemptions of 75 percent of assessments and the county approved 100-percent exemptions.

During telephone canvassing, the post identified 200 eligible veterans who were not Legion members. Then the post membership committee delivered special packets containing applications for

the tax exemption, copies of *The AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE*, brochures on the Legion and membership application forms.

As a result, post membership has more than doubled—to 183 from 90 in 1985—and the increase boosted Monroe County

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***"Post members, determined to show proper honor to the veterans, rescheduled the parade."***

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over the 100 percent membership mark for the first time in 25 years. For its efforts, the post received the outstanding post award from the county and the New York Department Commander's Award for Outstanding Post in its size category.

Monroe County Cmdr. Ray Adams praised the members of Post 1330 for their enthusiasm and their dependability in always attending county meetings with full voting strength, and for the spirit of cooperation they bring to county projects.

Post Cmdr. Frank Kachala said one of the distinguishing characteristics of the post is the willingness of its members "to take a couple of extra strides, make an extra effort and keep in the forefront of the community with a good image."

The post sponsors delegates to Boys State and in 1985, after the Auxiliary disbanded on short notice, sponsored a delegate to Girls State.

Its Boy Scout troop has 15 percent—a high percentage—of its boys reach Eagle Scout status. Kachala said on a national basis only about 2 percent of all boys who enter scouting achieve Eagle rank. The troop, averaging 18 Scouts per year, is led by Karl Kahn, post vice commander, who has been scoutmaster for 20 years and is largely credited with the program's success.

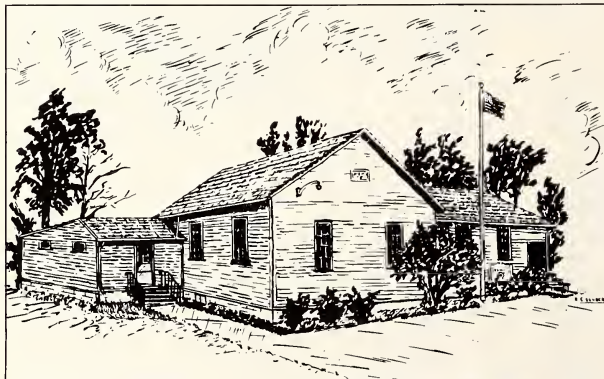
The importance of the Scouts to the post is evident in the remodeling of the post home, scheduled for completion this month. The building is an 1881 school house, and after renovation and expansion, the Scouts will have a special room of their own. Most of the work on the home has been donated by Legionnaires.

Legionnaires are active members of the Rush Hometown Days, an annual two-day festival to promote the goods and services of the community and attract visitors.

In annual observances to honor veterans, the post holds a service in one of the town's four churches during Memorial Day weekend and coordinates a community parade. Kachala said the weather was so bad one year that the parade was cancelled. But post members, determined to show proper honor to the veterans, rescheduled the parade and made the extra effort to hold the event—including school bands, government officials, veterans and marching units—on a regular weekday.

The rescheduled parade "got a better turnout than ever," said Kachala. "There were more veterans and better participation. A lot of veterans were there who had been out of town for the three-day Memorial Day weekend and would have missed the parade. We also got a lot of press coverage because of the extra effort we went to."

It was another case of devotion to veterans that paid off for Post 1330. □



**LEGION HALL**—Remodeling of the post home—an 1881 schoolhouse, illustrated by post member Robert Eisenberg—retains its rustic exterior.







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**WAR ON  
CHILDREN**

*Continued from page 15*

international organizations such as The Rene Guyon Society, North American Man-Boy Love Association, Pedophile Information Exchange, Childhood Sexuality Circle, PAM, and numerous "circles of friends." While the strength of these organizations is unknown, each time an arrest is made law enforcement officers invariably seize mailing lists which may include only a handful of names or as many as 1,000. Membership in these organizations grows and with it the belief that sex with children at any age should be acceptable, indeed legal, at all costs.

The membership includes a rainbow of people—computer experts, college professors, headmasters, school teachers, businessmen, bikers, clergymen, retirees, blue-collar workers, politicians, newspaper reporters, scout leaders and a shockingly large number of family members.

**Enemy propaganda** is effectively carried out through regular publications and announcements of the various organizations, lobbying efforts, appearances on public forums, radio and TV programs and "research" press releases. An example of research propaganda was made public allegedly by The Rene

Guyon Society and reported in one of the largest circulation sexually-related magazines in the country. "The (anal) cavity is large enough at age 4 for both girls and boys to painlessly hold an adult penis—an act they constantly desire from adult males they love." . . .

**Enemy communications** include national and international newsletters that attempt to discredit any persons, organizations or events which oppose the child lover/molester. This includes information on pending or past congressional hearings, laws that have been passed, antagonistic articles or editorials, and even persons or organizations deemed to be "undercover agents." For example, several years ago, PAM, the Netherlands organization for international "child lovers," published the undercover name of a United States postal inspector who was investigating child pornography on the East Coast.

Their communications have kept abreast of modern technology. With 135 known "electronic bulletin boards," users exchange names and descriptions of children and methods by which they can recruit them for sexual purposes. Fortunately, some of these computer experts are caught. For example, in 1985, a 40-year-old Midwest computer analyst was convicted of numerous child molestations.

**Psychological warfare** is being used for the ultimate control of young children. Brainwashing is imposed through isolation, drugs and physical and psy-

**STRANGERS**

*Continued from page 15*

*Teach children to run and scream for help. Children who are not paralyzed by fear may be excellent witnesses. Children who try to save themselves by cooperating with a molester become victims.*

**Emergency**

"Your mommy is sick and at the hospital. . . Your house is on fire. . . Your mommy sent me to get you. . . come with me!"

*Select a code word that only you and your children know. Tell children never to go with anyone unless the code has been used. Prearrange emergency plans with your children.*

**Games and Fun**

Seemingly innocent play leads to intimate bodily contact. People dressed as clowns, holiday figures, TV characters,

popular personalities or fanciful characters capture a child's sense of fun.

*Teach children the difference between "good touch" and "bad touch." Explain that certain areas of their bodies are private. Encourage them to report behavior that makes them feel uncomfortable or bad. Tell children that real heroes would not use their fame to hurt a child, and they should not go with someone dressed up in a costume. Teach them "No secrets, ever!"*

**Ego/Fame**

Children are promised modeling jobs, beauty contest opportunities, auditions for commercials or movies, but told to keep a secret from their parents. Photo/filming sessions begin harmlessly, but often escalate into pornography and seduction.

*Chaperone your children's talent pursuits. Warn them not to trust people who encourage them to keep secrets from their parents.*

**Name Recognition**

Children are disarmed by adults who



chological torture. Once mind control is attained, there follows a programmed destruction of personal and social values, i.e., self, family, religion, patriotism and childhood heroes. Preschoolers have described to the ABC News program, 20/20, how they were sexually assaulted with the hard corners of The Bible and small American flagpoles with the flags attached.

**Enemy weaponry** consists mainly of cunning child lures the pedophile uses to draw children from their safe havens of home, school and playground to abduct, abuse, and sometimes murder. Once the child is seduced or coerced, the weapons of abuse are as diversely unlimited as the perpetrator's sexual fantasies. Most frightening is the escalation of the use of sadomasochistic torture equipment on young victims—whips, ballgags, harnesses and piercing of the genitals.

What can be done to stop this assault on our children? The criminal element is incredibly well-organized. Our first line of defense against such a methodical and mobile enemy should be our public social and protective agencies.

However, despite the increase in crimes against children, political leadership has cut back severely, or eliminated all together, those federal and state programs designed to assist in and support the welfare of children. Furthermore, out of 17,000 law enforcement agencies in this country, only seven police departments have full-time,

round-the-clock investigative units working on crimes against children.

The United States does not have a modern computerized system to trace missing or unidentified dead children. By current U.S. Justice Department accounts, the FBI's National Computer Information Center has entered a mere 14 percent or less of all missing persons in the country.

Until such time as these domestic armed forces are mobilized and until such time as the courts send repeat offenders to prison to stay, the first line of defense must be PREVENTION. I, therefore, propose the following:

In a house-to-house approach, using a format designed for parents or teachers, quietly and in a forthright, but non-threatening manner, present to your child the lures that may be used to entice them into a very dangerous situation, explain how to recognize these lures, and offer protective measures to take.

Involve your immediate neighbors, both young and old, so that they may know the lures and methods by which the enemy operates. This is precisely what David Hartmann of *Good Morning, America* did in his neighborhood, so that not only he and his wife would be more alert and vigilant in the protection of their loved ones, but also that all neighbors would serve as more protective eyes for local children.

Organize an army of concerned citizens and mobilize a political force.

*Continued on page 52*

know their names and engage them in friendly conversation.

*If name tags are necessary on a child's clothing or belongings, place them in areas not visible to a passing observer.*

## Jobs

Adolescents are offered high paying, interesting jobs. Interviews are held in secluded locations and advertised with only a post office box.

*Stress with adolescents that you want to know where and by whom they are being interviewed. Explain why.*

## Playmates

Some preschool and elementary school children who have been sexually abused are mentally programmed to lure other children.

*If your child is constantly being taken to, or asked to, play at the house of another playmate, particularly where there is a single male or live-in boyfriend, check carefully why that one house/person/location is a popular place. Ask questions. Visit the location during playtime.*

*If you feel your children are becoming sexually knowledgeable or active, ask questions: Is someone taking their photo, making video tapes, playing touching games, or having them remove their clothes?*

## Magic/Rituals

Sophisticated, destructive ritual abuse is emerging under the guise of the occult, or "the world of the unknown." Abused children become brainwashed and allow repeated abuse, eventually becoming abusers themselves.

*Discuss concepts of good and evil at an early age so children are not confused by those who try to teach them otherwise. Be inquisitive if a child begins to reject basic social values. Become vigilant if your child suffers from frequent nightmares or becomes absorbed by horror films, certain music or engages in unfamiliar rituals.*

The above information, excerpted from the booklet *Child Lures*, is intended as a guide to help parents educate children for their own safety. Copies of *Child Lures* are available at \$3 each, including postage and handling, by writing to: Child Lures, 4345 Shelburne Rd., Shelburne, VT 05482.

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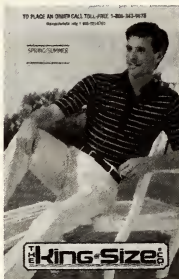
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# WAR ON CHILDREN

*Continued from page 51*

Develop a *National Child Defense Act* and push for passage at both the state and federal levels. Without question, our police departments must be upgraded, both in resources and in training. We also need a special prosecutor at the federal level to conduct investigations into the alarming 25 percent increase in bizarre murders aimed mainly at children and young women. Certain cults and groups are using children for prostitution and unbelievable ritual crimes.

Until such time as it takes for the legislative process to make sweeping reforms in child protection, we should push for national interim measures: emergency legislation to release major training funds for educating professional groups—police, prosecutors, judges, social workers, counselors, emergency room doctors, medical examiners and educators, especially school nurses—and mobilization of resources for every law enforcement agency in this land, specifically for full-time child protection units.

A modern computerized system for tracking all missing children should be developed within the private business sector. Free of bureaucratic paralysis and excessive cost to taxpayers, the unlimited creative resources of this nation's high-tech industries must be drafted until a workable system is operational. The final product should be given to this country as an insurance gift for the best protection affordable for future generations.

Every war has its cynics and timid souls. This undeclared war on children is no exception: Uninformed social critics minimize the number of criminally abducted and murdered children, others simply deny the problem of molestation/abduction exists. Meanwhile, the battlefield casualties add up, as local newspapers dotting the map from sea to sea daily record them.

All the sacrifices of past generations, both on the battlefield and on the home-front will have been in vain if we fail to destroy the evil aimed at our youth today. Michigan State Police Captain Robert Robertson, who headed an investigation of a series of child murders, summed it up: "This is something we won't be able to handle until the public becomes aware of it and is angered by it. Nothing has ever been accomplished until society took a stand—the Civil Rights movement, the Women's Liberation movement. Somebody has to get outraged." □





# VETERANS ADVISER

*Do you have questions concerning your veterans benefits? The American Legion Magazine will answer as many as possible in this column. We regret that we are unable to provide a personal response to each query. Write to The American Legion Magazine, Veterans Adviser Editor, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN., 46206.*

**Q.** Does the VA provide a monetary allowance toward the purchase of a commercially sold headstone or marker for a veteran's grave?

**A.** For eligible veterans, buried on or after Oct. 18, 1978, the VA is authorized to pay an amount not to exceed the average actual cost of a government headstone or marker. The current rate is \$70.

**Q.** During my 22 years in the Army I became an alcoholic. Will the VA pay me compensation for this disease?

**A.** No. The VA can offer treatment for alcoholism, but no benefits may be paid. Alcoholism is not considered a condition for which compensation is payable.

**Q.** Are there limits to how much VA will pay for authorized private outpatient medical care?

**A.** Yes. The cost of routine treatment may not exceed \$75 per month without VA approval. Requests to exceed a limitation should be accompanied by justification from the provider.

**Q.** May closing costs be included in the amount of money the VA guarantees for a home loan?

**A.** No. Closing costs must be paid by the veteran-buyer from his or her resources.

**Q.** I have a GI home loan and I am considering selling my home to purchase another. What can I do to have my entitlement restored to obtain another GI home loan?

**A.** A veteran may qualify for restoration if the VA has been relieved

of liability on the GI loan. Normally this is accomplished by selling the property and paying off the loan in full. Another way is for a veteran-buyer to agree to substitute his or her entitlement for that of the original veteran borrower and meet all other requirements for entitlement.

**Q.** I received an overpayment letter from the VA. I cannot pay the entire amount back at once. What can I do?

**A.** You may make a partial payment and propose how you intend to pay the balance.

**Q.** I am an 80-year-old widow with a limited income. My son was killed in service during World War II. Am I eligible for any benefits from the VA?

**A.** Parents are eligible for death benefits if their income is insufficient to provide them with a reasonable standard of living. Proof of your relationship to the veteran must be submitted with the application for death benefits.

**Q.** I have a National Service Life Insurance policy that I pay on a monthly basis. Sometimes I forget to mail my premiums on time. May I pay my premiums in advance?

**A.** Yes, you may pay premiums as far in advance as you want. There is a discount of 3 percent per year on premiums paid in advance. You might want to change your mode of payment to quarterly, semiannually or annually. A change of payment mode can be made at any time by a written request to the VA Insurance Center.

**Q.** My father is 68 years old and a World War II veteran. How can he go about applying for domiciliary care?

**A.** VA domiciliaries provide care on an ambulatory self-care basis for veterans disabled by age or disease and who are not in need of skilled nursing home services or hospitalization. Applications may be made at any VA office. VA approval is needed for admission.

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Ruth and Patrick Eagen  
Hempstead, New York

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## GOVERNMENT LENDING

Continued from Page 23

gave the government more power to seek out deadbeats and force payments. Administrators can now cross-check credit applications with IRS and other records, hire private collectors, and charge interest and levy fines for late payments. Tough cases are turned over to the Justice Department.

For example, three years ago a U.S. attorney in Los Angeles publicized the claims he filed against 90 student loan defaulters, among them doctors, attorneys and even a TV newscaster. The public dunning compelled nearly all to pay up, a total that came to nearly \$270,000.

Some Justice Department attorney

# “THE DEBT IS GROWING AT A MIND-BOGGLING RATE OF \$53.5 MILLION A DAY!”

find a menacing letter stimulates the deadbeats to pay; others haul the debtors into court for asset hearings, a most effective measure. The government also has looked to clean its own house, running computer tallies of federal employees, looking for those who have defaulted on student loans. Today, without court approval, the government can deduct up to 15 percent of the salary of a federal employee who won't repay a government loan.

Despite the Debt Collection Act, said Kasich, “procedures for tracking down and collecting overdue funds are just not working effectively.” He added that while much publicity already has been given to the delinquent debt totals in the Department of Education's student loan programs and loans made by the SBA and the Housing and Urban Development Department, the recent GAO study revealed numerous horror stories in less visible agencies.

Kasich acknowledged that the government shouldn't harass citizens who are truly hard-pressed, or who have failed after making good faith efforts to repay the loans. He said there are plenty



of culprits who can afford to pay, or who hold assets and collateral to make good on the loans, if only government agencies would cooperate and enforce the laws.

He cited examples in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's fishing vessel financing fund, which is currently carrying \$27 million in delinquent debts. One case involved a \$257,000 default. After preparing papers to recover a vessel for which the loan was made, it took a U.S. attorney 349 days to file, and another 294 days before the collateral vessel was sold at foreclosure. During such delays, of course, the value of the asset drops and the taxpayers lose.

According to an internal memo on the program, NOAA complained that most U.S. attorneys "appear . . . generally uninterested in debt collection litigation," and that such activities are pursued by "persons who often appear only marginally motivated . . ."

So what's the solution? An often suggested tactic is to use the complete resources of the IRS to collect from defaulters, "an idea that's been resisted for obvious political reasons," said Bosworth. Another proposal is for the government to sell the debt to private institutions, which would surely enforce collections much better than the government. Washington would, of course, discount the loans, selling them at a loss. But the losses probably would be less than if the loans were continued to be carried, and the sad totals would finally be obvious to the taxpayers.

Kasich said he believes that there's no single, effective measure. "First, we have to tighten up the Debt Collection Act of 1982." New elements might well include a greater use of private collection agencies which, for a fee, could righteously dun the deadbeats.

The cries by Kasich and others, however, are beginning to make a difference. In January, five federal agencies—including the Departments of Education, Housing and Urban Development, Agriculture, the Veterans Administration and the SBA—turned over names of 750,000 loan defaulters to the IRS, which plans to deduct late payments from tax refunds. Of the \$1.6 billion targeted in this sweep, \$1.3 is from delinquent student loans. (About 88 percent of the 750,000 defaulters hold student loans.)

"We also need interagency cooperation," he said. "But there must be someone to make sure the agencies and bureaus are following the law and going after overdue loan payments, unpaid fines and so forth. We need a 'Debt Czar' to collect the money owed the U.S. government. Given the nation's financial state, we've got to scrape together every dollar we can get." □

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## EASTERN EUROPE

*Continued from page 21*

Most people of Eastern Europe retain a strong contempt for communism and positively dislike the Soviet Union.

But they are realists. There was a time when many believed that communism might be overthrown through the intervention of the democracies. Yet the West, the United States certainly included, has repeatedly shown an unwillingness to confront the Soviets in Europe. The most important event, and the biggest disappointment for the satellites, was the Hungarian Revolution. But Hungary was hardly the only opportunity to strike a blow against the Kremlin's grip over Eastern Europe. There is a good deal of evidence that the Soviets were prepared to back down had the United States prevented the construction of the Berlin Wall. Had that occurred, East Germany, conceivably, might be free today.

Thus the people of Eastern Europe have been forced to face the harsh reality that an open bid for liberty will not be supported by the democracies, at least not in any military sense. Justifiably or not, East Europeans have a somewhat cynical view of the West. They admire our open society, our freedoms and our prosperity. At the same time they see the West as having too easily accommodated itself to the status quo of Soviet domination and as unwilling to punish the Soviets for their refusal to relinquish their colonial empire.

American policy toward Eastern Europe has undergone several transformations in the post-war period. Initially, we sought the reversal of Soviet domination through the so-called policy of roll-back. Roll-back collapsed with the crushing of the Hungarian Revolution, a development that triggered an agonizing reappraisal of our relations with the satellites. Subsequently, the United States moved to normalize ties with the various regimes, in the hope that expanded trade and cultural relations would contribute to a less hostile environment, and to the gradual detachment of Eastern Europe from Moscow's grip. Today this approach has been refined into what is generally referred to as the policy of "differentiation."

Under differentiation, the United States attempts to reward regimes that either demonstrate a degree of independence from Moscow, or that improve their observance of human rights. On the other hand, differentiation implies that regimes that persecute their citi-

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zens and enthusiastically support every Soviet foreign policy position will be penalized. In fact, the United States has generally adhered to differentiation's carrot-and-stick approach: Trade concessions have been advanced to Hungary for its relatively liberal human rights record and to Romania for its semi-independent foreign policy. Trade concessions have been denied Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and East Germany for failure to improve in the human rights area, and have been withdrawn from Poland because of the repression of Solidarity.

In addition to offering rewards and punishments to East European regimes, the United States has a strong moral obligation to support democratic currents in the region. This means, among other things, continuing to strengthen broadcasts to the people of Eastern Europe through the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe. For societies where strict press censorship is the rule, American radio broadcasts serve the function of an alternative news media. For example, in 1980 when the historic events that led to the formation of Solidarity were taking place, Poles turned to Radio Free Europe to learn about developments which their own press ignored.

The United States should provide financial support to those willing to conduct the difficult struggle for democracy and human rights. In certain cases, such assistance can be given by the government, through the recently formed National Endowment for Democracy, an institution set up specifically to help stimulate democratic currents around the world. Often, however, prudence requires that help be given by non-governmental sources, such as churches or trade unions. A model of how to assist opposition forces in a communist country is the AFL-CIO's contribution of hundreds of thousands of dollars to Solidarity and to Solidarity's underground organization. The AFL-CIO's help has had a real impact on Solidarity's ability to maintain contact with the Polish people by making it possible for the Polish union to support a vast network of underground and uncensored publications.

As important as the steps America takes to assist the cause of liberty in Eastern Europe, is the avoidance of statements or behavior that would damage the opportunities for change. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance that the United States never appears to endorse the Kremlin's view that its domination of Eastern Europe is immutable. Nothing would set back the cause of liberty more than a U.S. acknowledgement that a semi-colonial

*Continued on page 58*

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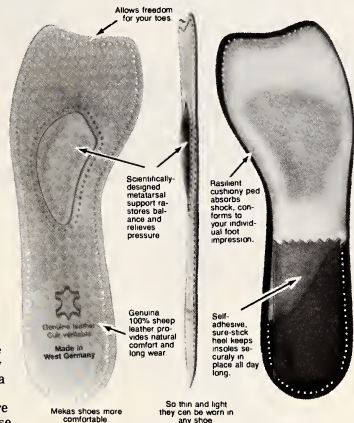
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## EASTERN EUROPE

Continued from page 57

status is the normal and acceptable state of affairs, or for the United States to appear to agree with Moscow's contention that current East European arrangements serve the cause of peace. In fact, the opposite is true. Peace—real peace—will be achieved only when the countries of Eastern Europe are set free.

Those Americans who object to criticisms of the Soviet Union as overly reminiscent of the Cold War period should recall that the Cold War was launched primarily because of Moscow's enslavement of what were once (and accurately) referred to as the captive nations. Purging our language of anti-Soviet rhetoric will not change the fact that the Cold War will last as long as the Soviets maintain their grip over their captive neighbors.

It is impossible to predict when or if the nations of Eastern Europe will be free. But there are many signs that the Soviets are finding the imperialist burden an increasingly heavy one. The New Communist Man never materialized; people tolerate communism because they have no choice. Even communist leaders admit that the young people of Eastern Europe are more drawn to Western values than to socialism. Today, one of the strongest condemnations of the communist system is that the leadership prefers a people that is apathetic to one that is politically involved, since involvement invariably leads to the spread of anti-communist ideas.

Nor is it preordained that the Soviet Union will forever be able to control events within its periphery. The Kremlin's unwillingness to invade Poland indicates that even this mighty superpower can become too thinly stretched, what with thousands of troops permanently massed at the Chinese border and some 100,000 soldiers assigned to the war in Afghanistan.

Those active in the Solidarity movement and in similar movements in other East European nations have demonstrated a willingness to continue the struggle for democratic change. As the leading democracy in the world, the United States has an obligation to support those who stand as our democratic surrogates. The form our help takes may be modest, at least for the time being. But conditions may change, and if they do, America must be prepared to prove its commitment to the goal of liberation that we claim to share with the people of Eastern Europe. □



## DRUG ABUSE

Continued from page 17

come in for treatment. Sometimes they do, but sometimes it is too late. We must educate parents, as well as their children, to the dangers of drugs.

In fact, the closest thing to a vaccine for this disease called drug abuse is parent groups. Parents are banding together and they are having a powerful effect on the drug crisis. I am so happy they are becoming involved instead of pushing the problem off on the government. After all, the government didn't have the children—parents did and the ultimate responsibility is theirs.

In the past four years, the number of parent groups has grown from 1,000 to more than 9,000 across the country.

Kids are helping kids, too. I recently met several young people who have found ways of resisting the pressure to use drugs and who are now working to help others do the same. Some used drugs at one point in their lives, others did not. Their stories are told in a new youth-related book titled *Teens in Action*, published by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. This book describes the problems, challenges, successes and hopes that 15 young people have experienced in trying to succeed in environments that too often promote rather than discourage drug abuse.

The White House is committed to the drive against drugs. The President's concern is as strong and deep as mine. And I intend to keep the spotlight on drug abuse as long as I'm here.

I think we have made a difference in the four years since we started. I know I'm seeing more programs about drug abuse on TV than before, and more people publicly talking about their problems and wanting to find help. So I'm encouraged that the effort has had some result. However, we can't do it alone. What we need more than anything else is people—committed, determined, active people who will work together.

A mother, who is a reformed alcoholic from Port Chester, N.Y., wrote me: "When the roots of a tree die, the tree is lost. If the youth of America die, the nation is lost!" I couldn't agree with her more. Won't you please join us and help save our children?

If there is not a parent group in your area, and if you want to start one, but don't know how to do it, please write to me: Nancy Reagan, ATTN: Drug Awareness, The White House, Washington, D.C. 20500. I will make certain you get the information you need. □

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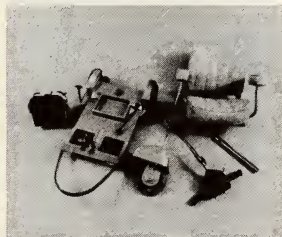
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## VETERAN'S ALERT

Continued from page 39

USS Sevier APA-233 (May-Charleston, SC) J.H. Kesteron, 106 Shaftesbury Ln., Summerville, SC 29483 (803) 873-4533

USS Stetel SS-392 WWII (Aug-Baltimore) George Petretti, 30 Gould Ave., Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522 (914) 689-2848

USS Wadleigh DD-689 (June-Portland, ME) Charles Nash, Desert Pines Estates, Freeport, ME 04032 (207) 865-4788

## Army Air Forces

1st Radio Sq. (Patterson Field, 1942-45) (June-Dayton, OH) Elizabeth Woosley, Box 43, Camden, OH 45311 (513) 452-3247

7th Flt. Cmd, 78th Flt. Sq. WWII (Dec-Honolulu) Clyde Mortensen, Box 82, Hartland, WI 53029 (414) 367-5628

11th Serv. Sq., Hq. Sq., 8th Serv. Grp. WWII (May-Lancaster, PA) John Hackler, 76 E. Harbor Dr., Teaticket, MA 02536 (617) 540-1303

64th Tr. Carrier Sq., 403rd TC Grp., 13th A.F. WWII (Oct-Greensboro, NC) Jim Filipski, 1717 Trooper Rd., Greensboro, NC 27405 (919) 288-4498

323rd Flt. Sq. (June-Rochester MN) Gordon Bieth, 618 1st S.E., Mason City, IA 50401 (515) 423-7447

322nd Bomb Grp., 536th, 537th, 538th, 539th Sqdns. (Pocatello, ID, Murco, CA) (May-Pigeon Forge, TN) Eugene Loy, 4412 Genny Lynn Dr., Knoxville, TN 37918 (615) 688-7094

390th Bomb Sq. (M), 42nd Bomb Grp., 13th A.F. (May-Myrtle Beach, SC) Adrian Good, Box 1031, Elizabethton, TN 37643 (615) 543-3111

401st Flt. Sq., 370th Flt. Grp. (July-LaGrange, KY) Tom Madden, 1818 Bass Circle, LaGrange, KY 40031 (502) 222-1738

450th Bomb Grp. (H) WWII (Sept-Dayton, OH) Arnold Daniels, 228 Holley Rd., Sweet Home, OH 97386 (503) 367-4053

565th, 574th SAW Bns. (July-Buffalo, NY) Joseph Cowick, 131 University Ave., Depew, NY 14043 (716) 684-0532

## Air Force

8th A.F. Historical Soc. (FL Chapter) (May-St. Petersburg Bch., FL) Jim Beavers, 4920 Teltson Pl., Orlando, FL 32806 (305) 275-1029

27th Air Depot Grp. (Attach. units-WWII) (Aug-Pittsburgh) George Takos, 4388 Old William Penn Hwy., Monroeville, PA 15145 (412) 372-3874

364th Flt. Grp. (Honington, Eng-WWII) (Sept-Dayton, OH) Dan Leftwich, 6630 Caldero Ct., Dayton, OH 45415 (513) 890-3641

464th Bomb Grp. (July-Manitowoc, WI) Norbert Kustka, 12324 Hwy. JJ, Cato, WI 54206 (414) 775-4471

487th Bomb Grp. (H), 8th A.F. WWII (Sept-Scottsdale, AZ) V. Gibbons, 6018 W. Marlette Ave., Glendale, AZ 85301

## Marines

6th Marine Div. (Brig. Detach.-Tsingtao, China) (July-Pigeon Forge, TN) Leonard Marshall, Star Rt., Box 82, Guild, TN 37340 (615) 942-2701

17th AAA Bn., 2nd Airborne Bn. (May-Orlando, FL) Arnold Marvin, 2523 S.E. 22nd Ave., Cape Coral, FL 33904 (813) 574-5441

"A" Co., 5th Engr. Bn., 5th Mar. Div. WWII (Apr-Saratoga Springs, NY) Charles Nightingale, 4301 S. 8th St., Arlington, VA 22204 (703) 892-6745

"B" Co., 5th Tank Bn., 5th Mar. Div. WWII (Sept-Abilene, TX) Bill Howe, Rt. 3, Box 276, Carlisle, IN 47838 (812) 398-2154

"C" Co., 1st Corps M.T. Bn. (Aug-Grand Rapids, MN) Wally Lueder, 349 W. Joe Orr Rd., Chicago Hts., IL 60411 (312) 754-4197

## Coast Guard

USCGC Thetis (July-Newport, RI) Clive Bridges Sr., 5750 Florida Blvd., #4, Baton Rouge, LA 70806 (504) 926-1131

USS Bisbee WWII (May-Reno, NV) Jesse Fletcher, 15027 Lashburn, Whittier, CA 90604 (213) 941-1867



## Miscellaneous

**Periscope Command Vets** (June-Rapid City, SD) Edward Packard, 213 St. Ann, Rapid City, SD 57701 (605) 342-5918

## COMRADES IN DISTRESS

Readers who can help these veterans are urged to do so. Usually an eyewitness statement is needed in support of a VA claim.

Notices are run only at the request of American Legion Service Officers representing claimants, using Search for Witness Forms available only from State Legion Service Officers. Please contact CID (number). The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206

**USS King DD 242.** Arval Hulan Smith needs witnesses to verify a claim that while aboard ship in Aug. 1941, he injured his left knee when he fell down the hatch to crews quarters. Contact CID 1030.

**"B" Co., 558th SAW Bn.** Donald M. Silver is seeking witnesses to verify a claim that while stationed at Burma in Dec. 26, 1944, he suffered an ear infection from bathing in the river. Contact CID 1031

**1060th O.R.T.C.** Robert Francis Adams needs witnesses to verify a claim that while stationed at overseas replacement training center, Greensboro, NC in March 1945, his foot was scalded when a pot of boiling water was dropped on it. Contact CID 1032

**"B" Co., 404th Engr. Water Supply Bn.** Jack Hutton needs witnesses to verify a claim that while stationed at Casa-Bianca, Africa in June 1943, he broke his right ankle while on guard duty. Contact CID 1033

**546th Ord. MAM Co.** Widow of Neil M. McMinn is seeking witnesses to verify a claim that while her husband was stationed at Fulda, Germany in 1946-47, his ring caught on something and he was thrown from a truck injuring his shoulders and neck. Contact CID 1034

**"A" Btry., 879th F.A., 69th Div.** Alex Bauer is seeking witnesses to verify a claim that while stationed in Germany in 1945, he suffered an ear injury from a howitzer blast. Contact CID 1027

**36th Div.** Willie H. Cope is seeking witnesses to verify a claim that while stationed in Italy on Dec. 19, 1943, he was hit by enemy fire. Contact CID 1028

**QM Div., 9th Inf. Div.** Sammy W. Fulmer needs witnesses to verify a claim that while stationed at Goepfingen, W. Germany from Jan. to June, 1956, he suffered epileptic seizures and extreme nervousness. Contact CID 1029

**Engr. Corp.** Conrad Rechsteiner is seeking witnesses to verify a claim that while stationed at Camp Sutton, NC in Sept. 1943, he passed out on parade ground. Contact CID 1035

**550th Signal Air Warning Bn.** Clayton C. Smith needs witnesses to verify a claim that while stationed at Iceland in Feb. 1945, he developed a nervous condition from being away from his family. Contact CID 1036

## TAPS

Taps Notices mention, whenever possible, those Legionnaires who have held high national or department office in the Legion or the U.S. government, or who have attained other forms of national prominence.

**Lt. Col. Ellison S. Onizuka,** USAF, Legionnaire, astronaut and member of the Challenger space mission, Jan. 28, 1986. He was a member of Hawaii Post 20.

**Laurence W. Carr,** AZ Alternate National Executive Committee (1956-58), Department Commander (1948-49), Department Vice Commander (1947-48).

**L.A. Ward,** UT Department Commander (1958-59).  
**Elmer L. Fraker,** OK Department Commander (1935-36), Department Adjutant (1945-55).

**William E. Matthews,** DE National Executive Committee (1951-55), Alternate National Executive Committee (1931-34), Department Commander (1928-29), Department Vice Commander (1927-28).

**Elizabeth R. Wilson,** CA Department Vice Commander, representing women (1984-85).

**John Davis Lodge,** CT Congressman (1947-51), Governor (1951-55), Ambassador to Portugal.

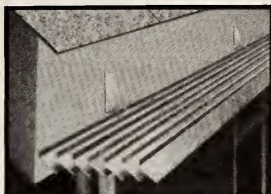
**Earl H. Shackelford,** American Legion Founder, MO Department Commander (1935-36), Department Vice Commander (1932-34).

**Hermann Moyse,** LA Alternate National Executive Committee (1924-25), Department Commander (1923-24).  
**Rossard Steward Williams,** OH National Executive Committee (1952-54), Alternate National Executive Committee (1948-52), Department Commander (1943-44), Department Vice Commander (1942-43).

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## ORBEN'S WORLD

March is a very special month. It's when all those easy-to-assemble toys you gave to your kids at Christmas finally are.

Do you realize what an upside-down world we're living in? I've got a pure-bred dog that came with a leather-bound portfolio of official papers. I don't have that much documentation on my kids.

We had a wonderful family vacation in Mexico this winter and I particularly enjoyed the finish. When we came back, the kids were declared contraband.



Do you ever get the feeling you're surrounded by incompetents—and it's beginning to rub off?

Nowadays, it's amazing how many people have all but one of the necessary qualifications for a well-paying second job—a first job.

As a parent, I believe that it isn't how much time you spend with your kids, it's the quality of the time you spend with them. For instance, every Saturday I spend four hours on the golf course with my son. For me it's learning how to be a parent, a friend, a mentor and a confidant. For him, it's learning how to be a caddy.

Financial planners keep telling me that now that I have some money, I ought to make up a will. I've got news. Now that I have some money, I've lost all interest in dying.



March is when millions of Americans yearn to get back to the Old Sod. Some are Irishmen—the rest are golfers.

Have you noticed how parents never stop thinking like parents. I was talking to our neighbor and said, "Did you know that Halley's Comet only makes an appearance once every 76 years?" And she said, "I know. I have a son like that."

All of my life I've had the feeling that out there somewhere is a million dollars with my name on it—misspelled.

Never worry about life being too short because—life is too short for that.



Around this time of year, I always tell people I have a son in the service. It goes over so much better than saying he's an auditor at Internal Revenue.

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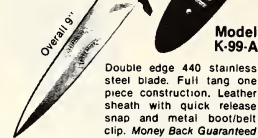
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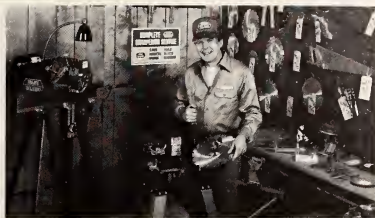
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# A WORLD WITHOUT SOUND

By Jay Stuller

**M**ORE than 15 million Americans suffer from some degree of hearing impairment, including a third of all those over the age of 60. About 10 percent of these people are completely deaf and require special training to speak and use sign language. Another 2 million clearly have difficulty following normal conversation. The vast majority, however, are in a nether world, their hearing gradually deteriorating, and many even unaware of the loss.

People at first usually lose only their ability to detect high-frequency sounds, such as the chirp of a bird. Or, they will begin to miss key words in conversations and ask the speaker to repeat a statement. Next comes difficulty hearing over the telephone. As denial of the problem is standard behavior, the latter will probably be blamed on the allegedly poor phonic amplification of the cheap new telephones flooding the market.

We resist accepting the reality of hearing impairment simply because it's most often a sign of aging. Or better, it's one of the few signs we think can be masked. There's also a fear of being forced to wear a cumbersome and unsightly hearing aid. However, this can be avoided, as revolutionary techniques and technologies have emerged to alleviate some serious and most mild hearing problems. For example:

- A new generation of hearing aids has been introduced, so small and light that the entire device can fit into the ear.

*San Francisco-based journalist Jay Stuller frequently covers the health scene for this and other general-interest national magazines.*

*Advances in surgical techniques, hearing aids and a new bioelectronic ear are making hearing possible for those who suffer in silence.*

When President Reagan started wearing one of the new miniature devices in September 1983, reporters almost failed to spot it.

- Surgeons have developed microscopic operating techniques that enable them to work deep within the ear structure. They can repair broken eardrums and graft replacement parts for the ossicles, the three tiniest bones in the body, which are vital to hearing.

- A bioelectronic ear that provides rudimentary hearing to people who are deaf was approved for use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in November 1985. Called the cochlear implant, the device is for people with specific conditions that have rendered them deaf. There may be as many as 200,000 Americans who could benefit from this implant.

While hearing loss is generally associated with aging, an alarming number of younger people are developing impairments. A study by Dr. David Lipscomb, head of the noise research laboratory at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, found that 60 percent of the 1,400 college students tested had significant high frequency hearing loss. Swedish and Japanese scientists have come up with similar results in their

nations, with students "two or three decades ahead of themselves in hearing deterioration."

The culprit? Loud music.

Experts agree that prolonged exposure to any sound higher than 80 to 90 decibels—about the noise level of rush-hour traffic—can damage the ears. Indeed, federal regulations prohibit workers from being exposed to more than eight hours of 90-decibel noise at one stretch.

At 95 decibels, the law allows only four hours of exposure, and two hours at 100. In these ranges, ear protection is advised. No exposure over 115 decibels is allowed.

Ah, but your average rock and roll band blares 120 decibels worth of music near the stage, and rock fans are not wearing ear plugs. Moreover, when doctors in Boston tested several personal stereos—the kind with earphones that inject sound directly to the brain—they discovered that at half-power, most of the stereos produced from 93 to 108 decibels. All could crank out 115 or more. But don't blame rock and roll; Mozart at 115 could damage ears, too.

**P**HYSICIANS aren't precisely sure how loud noise ruins hearing. But they are certain that prolonged exposure somehow damages tiny hair cells in an inner-ear structure called the cochlea. A single, loud report also can damage the cochlea. President Reagan traces his hearing difficulties to an incident in 1940 when a fellow actor "shot off a gun by my ear that almost knocked me down."

Hearing aids can solve most of the problems for people who have middle-ear deafness or a blockage in the middle ear. Since hearing aids cannot help someone with auditory nerve problems in the inner ear, it's wise to have a physician—an otolaryngologist—is an ear, nose and throat specialist—diagnose the cause



of the impairment. The aid, of course, does nothing to cure the underlying problem; it's merely an amplifier.

The micro-electronic age has done wonders for these devices. The old "body aid" models that were common 30 years ago—the earpiece was wired to an amplifying unit one carried in a pocket—are now used by less than 2 percent of those who need such assistance. Even the large models that attached to glasses have gone out of favor. About half of all hearing aid users have small ones that fit snugly behind the ear.

Most of these aids probably will eventually be replaced by a device similar to what the President wears. Powered by a tiny battery that needs changing every couple weeks, the wondrous little bugs also have superior audio quality and the best screen out the background noise so common to older models. The only current liability is that they cost about \$1,000. As with most electronic marvels of the 1980s, competition probably will drive down the price.

Microscopic surgical techniques developed within the past decade have enabled physicians to repair ear damage that in the past could not be fixed.

**GIFT OF HEARING**—Life's sweeter sounds are often lost because of ear-damaging noises such as loud music and city traffic.

**“WHILE THE cochlear implant doesn't guarantee perfect hearing, it does enable deaf people to hear voices, telephones, warning sirens, doorbells and other vital sounds.”**

Portions of eardrums can be repaired, or entirely replaced. Also, bone grafts only two to three millimeters in size are taken from behind the ear and used to replace the ossicles in the middle ear. Surgeons also employ cadaver bones, or implants of acrylic and glass, for the same purpose. Middle ear or conduction deafness now can be treated.

While the cochlear implant doesn't guarantee perfect hearing, it does enable deaf people to hear voices, telephones, warning sirens, doorbells and other vital sounds. Developed by Dr. William F. House of the House Ear Institute in Los Angeles, the device is applicable for those who are often described as having “nerve deafness,” although most cases do not actually involve damage to the nerve trunk.

FDA approval of the device was crit-

ical to bringing it on the market. Dr. Robert J. Oliveira, manager of the 3M company's Otologic Products program, which has helped develop the implant, said, “This is the first time the FDA has approved a bioelectronic device which substitutes for one of the five human senses.”

The FDA's decision should assure broad payment coverage from both private insurance companies and from Medicare and Medicaid, he said. As the surgery equipment and post-operative training costs from \$10,000 to \$12,000, such coverage is the only way most patients can afford the implant.

**T**HOSE patients who have had cochlear implants during clinical trials report that the device improved the accuracy of their lip reading and allowed them to maintain better control over the volume and pitch of their own speech. Most say that the device helps them feel more confident in social situations and physically safer in their day-to-day lives.

Other electronic devices have been developed for those with “ultra-audiometric” hearing, which means they can only detect very high frequencies. An electronic “translator” brings the low-frequency sounds up to a range that the individual can hear.

Prevention, to be sure, is the best medicine for hearing difficulties. Since most ear infections can be stopped with antibiotics, individuals with ear aches should see a physician almost immediately. Swift treatment prevents permanent damage. And, of course, common sense dictates that one should guard against exposure to loud noises.

There was a time when workers felt they would be considered wimps if they wore ear protection; fortunately, that notion has passed. Doctors now recommend that some kind of protection be used even around power lawnmowers, circular saws and the like. With the world so full of sweet sounds, it's a tragedy when bad ones are allowed to destroy our ability to hear. □

THIS ARTICLE CONTAINS GENERAL MEDICAL INFORMATION AND ADVICE. ALTHOUGH THE INFORMATION IS BELIEVED TO BE ACCURATE, YOU SHOULD CONSULT YOUR PHYSICIAN FOR MEDICAL ADVICE CONCERNING YOUR PARTICULAR CONDITION.



REXAL DOWD FOR KNOWLEDGE





*"Okay, who's the wise guy that bought decaffeinated?!?"*

## Intelligence Quandy

Since we are all above average in intelligence, why isn't the average higher?

—Arnot Sheppard Jr.

## Stuck on Details

An airline provided its passengers with chewing gum labeled: "To prevent unpleasant pressure in your ears during take-off and landing."

On one flight, a man appealed to the stewardess: "Help me get this stuff out of my ears—it hasn't done a bit of good."

—Bobbie Mae Cooley

## Definitive Deliberation

Politician to colleague: "What's a good word that sounds like 'yes' but more or less means 'no'?"

—Oliver Frazier

## Me or Thee

The difference between fatigue and laziness depends largely on who is making the diagnosis.

—H. Duane Black

## Bring Your Own Nurse

Nurse on phone: "Yes, the doctor will consider a house call. What time can you be at his house?"

—Edwin Goliath

## Pork Barrel Special

A small boy approached his father who was reading the evening paper. "Dad" he asked, "Do political plums grow from seeds?"

"No," replied his father, "they are the result of clever grafting."

—Fred W. Norman

## Moving to Siberia Soon

An American diplomat was touring a Russian factory in which every worker had been instructed on how to reply to any questions he might be asked.

"Yes, sir," said one worker, "I am very happy. I have a beautiful home, much fine furniture and a big new car."

Impressed, the diplomat asked, "And what is your next major purchase going to be?"

The worker replied, "A pair of shoes."

—Robert Brooks

## Immediate Translation

All people smile in the same language.

—Ken Levens

## No Credit Wanted

Two small boys wandered into an art gallery. Entering a room with a huge abstract painting, one whispered to the other: "We'd better get out of here before someone thinks we did it."

—John R. Daniels

## Scrambled Aids

On a visit to the Oregon coast, Bob stopped at a snack bar and engaged in small talk with another customer. Asked what he did for a living, the local man told Bob he sold herring eggs.

"Really? Even here I can't imagine being able to sell enough of those things to make a living," Bob replied.

"Oh, yes," his companion replied. "More people are using them all the time. They are becoming quite common."

Back home, Bob related the incident to his wife, saying, "How can anybody make a living selling herring eggs?"

To his astonishment, his wife replied, "I wish you were his customer! He doesn't sell herring eggs, he sells HEARING AIDS."

—Pat Mahon

## Insults Are Free

The conceited author met the equally conceited critic and asked, "What is your opinion of my new book?"

"It's worthless," replied the critic.

"I realize that," said the author, "but I'd like to hear it anyway."

—Kris Lee

## Pastor's Plea

Sign on church lawn: "Walketh not in green pastures."

—Lottie Austin



*"Be reasonable lady. I can't determine what's wrong with your bathtub until you bring it in so I can look at it."*



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